



# God at Work in Our Midst

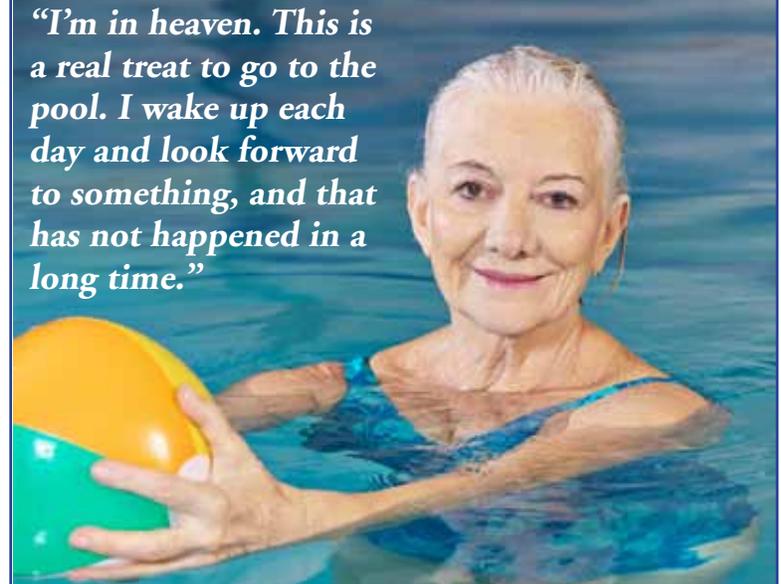
Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society  
September 2014



On a daily basis, Lutheran Homes Society impacts hundreds of residents, clients and families. The stories told here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Sharing these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's lives.

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Bea" is 90 years old and has been a very active woman. She was involved in many organizations and was featured on the cover of *The Blade* for her service during WWII. After Bea fell a couple years ago, she moved into an LHS housing site to be closer to her family. Since she is no longer able to drive, she has had to rely on friends and family to get her where she wants to go. Her site's Service Coordinator introduced Bea to LHS transportation services. She now utilizes LHS transportation to take her to and from the therapy pool twice a week. Bea enjoys going to the pool to stay active and visit with friends. She has praised the LHS drivers, and each time the Service Coordinator sees her Bea says, "I'm in heaven. This is a real treat to go to the pool. I wake up each day and look forward to something, and that has not happened in a long time."



## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Staff first met "Jerry" in a locked psychiatric hospital. He was disconnected from his family in another state. His father was schizophrenic, and his mother was a drug addict. Jerry had been doing drugs himself and was getting very aggressive. He was on probation, and past charges included burglary, robbery, and domestic violence. He also had a serious mental health diagnosis. Family and Youth Services accepted Jerry for care and treatment. Front line staff, therapists, school aides, teachers, the psychiatrist, and others at Family and Youth provided him with diligent treatment. They showed Jerry that they cared about him. They reached out to his mother through the Partners in Treatment program, and Jerry and his mother began to rebuild their relationship through guided visitation, family therapy, and relational skill-building. Eventually, Jerry went home to live with his mother. Several months after he was home, staff received a teary phone call from Jerry's mother. She wanted to let them know that he graduated from high school and walked across the stage in his cap and gown. She said Jerry is planning to go to a local community college and is still taking his medications and doing great. She expressed that Family and Youth did a wonderful job, and both mother and son are so thankful.

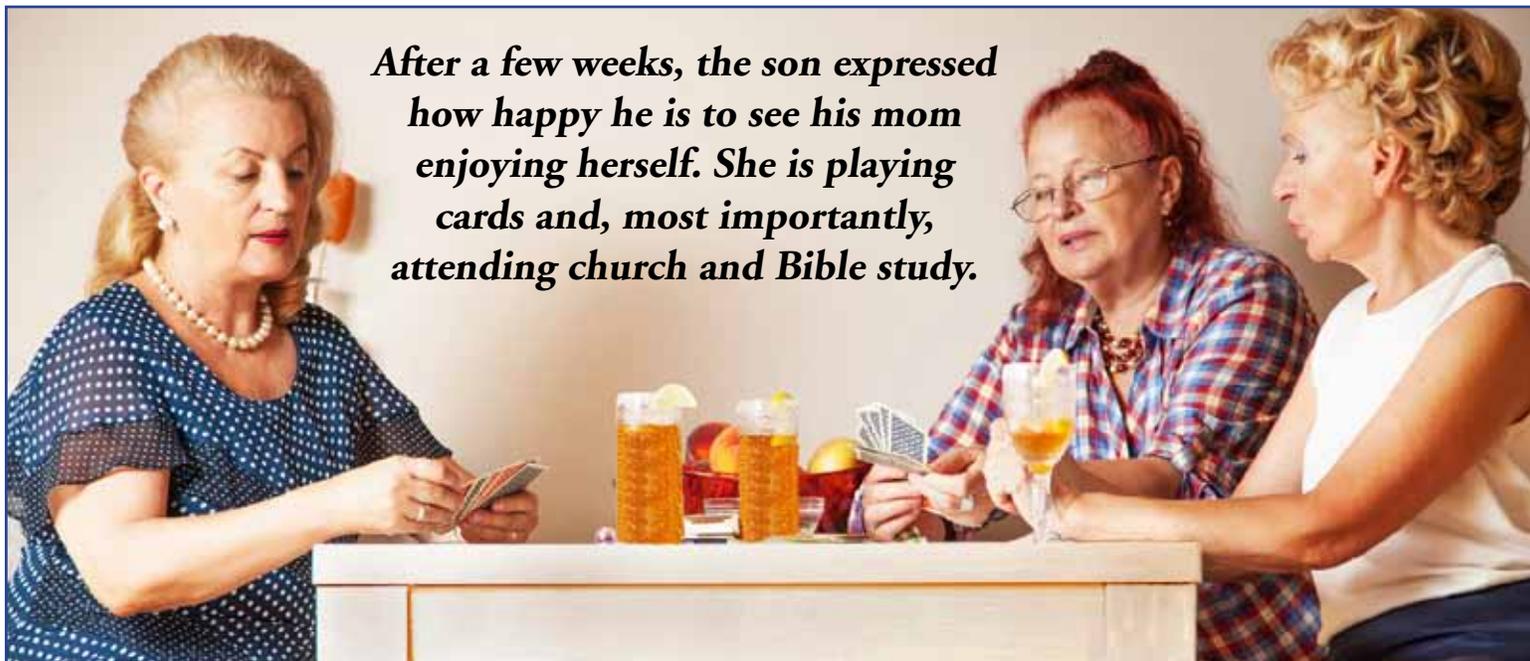
## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Marilyn" is single and lives alone in her home. She has always been active in keeping up with her home and yard. Ten years ago, Marilyn had hip replacement surgery. However, this past year, she began having pain in that hip and noticed she was limping. Doctors recommended that Marilyn have "reconstructive" surgery. Her second hip surgery was a success, but it was more extensive than the first one. Almost 50 staples later, and after being bedridden at the hospital for two weeks, Marilyn required physical therapy. She arrived at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek's rehabilitation center unable to bear weight on her legs and very weak. Therapists had to start from scratch, teaching Marilyn how to do many things that she used to do. She really appreciated how the nurses, therapists and aides treated her during her stay. Marilyn even told one of the aides that she was an "angel sent to her from heaven." After four weeks of therapy, Marilyn walked out of Wolf Creek and returned to her home. She has very little pain and can keep up with the best. Marilyn is very pleased with her progress and attributes her success to the Wolf Creek therapy department. She will continue with Wolf Creek for her outpatient therapy.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Eleanor” was living independently in her home when her children began noticing slight changes. She had always kept a clean house, but recently the dishes had started to pile up. It also seemed to them that her recollection of what she had done for the day was not making sense. One of the sons, who lived in a neighboring town, decided to have his mom come and live with him. After a couple of weeks, he realized that the situation was not going to work, so he started checking out various facilities. He stopped by to tour and mentioned that he had no idea how spacious the rooms were for both the assisted living and care center. He decided to talk to his mom and bring her by for a tour. Eleanor was also pleasantly surprised and decided that moving here would be a good choice. As she began moving in, Eleanor began to see familiar faces from the area. After a few weeks, the son expressed how happy he is to see his mom enjoying herself. She is playing cards and, most importantly, attending church and Bible study. It is wonderful to see her involved, for he feared the transition would not go smoothly. He is grateful for the excellent care and services his mother receives, since he could never provide the fellowship she receives at the Lutheran Home at Napoleon campus.

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## TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Cindy” came to The Labuhn Center on the Lutheran Home at Toledo campus from Luther Grove, after having rotator cuff surgery. This was her second surgery. After the first, she had gone home without support, and she did not want to have the same experience. Instead, she chose to come to the Toledo campus for rehabilitation, and she is very glad she did. Cindy stated that her recovery period at The Labuhn Center went very smoothly, and she has almost complete mobility in her arm. Cindy shared: “All the nurses, therapists, and nurse aides were great to me. All of my pain and comfort issues were addressed immediately and taken care of to my satisfaction. I have never had such good care.” Cindy went on to say: “The transition to The Labuhn Center was fantastic. Administration was great and handled all of my financial arrangements. I enjoyed the activity cart, and the activities staff was very helpful. I was even able to make a couple of things in the wood shop and I enjoyed that.” After making significant progress, Cindy returned to Luther Grove and is living actively and independently in her own apartment. Cindy simply says that The Labuhn Center “is the place to go.” She even invited rehab staff to a wine and cheese night at Luther Grove to meet her friends.

## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Barry” came to Lutheran Memorial Home unable to communicate his needs or to perform basic activities of daily living. He was admitted as a long-term care resident because of his multiple health issues, but Barry was determined to return to the community and to resume an active, independent lifestyle. Staff assisted him with establishing an income, regaining his physical independence, and stabilizing his medical conditions. Barry returned to a home in the community, but he still comes to the campus to attend church services. He knows that he overcame his struggles because of the grace of God.