



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*

September 2017

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

"Loretta" was admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus in early August for IV therapy. She had been blessed with a large support group and thought she had everything she needed to recover. Soon after she arrived at the Sandusky Campus, Loretta realized the support and encouragement she would receive there was much more than she had expected! Since Loretta was in need of IV therapy, the nursing staff played a significant role in her recovery. "The nursing staff here is fantastic; they seem to care about each and every person," Loretta said. At one point during her stay, she was faced with a very serious heart issue that needed immediate attention. "If the staff hadn't gotten me to the hospital when they did, I wouldn't be here," she stated. After a short hospital stay, Loretta eagerly returned to the Sandusky Campus and quickly picked up where she had left off. She was discharged home recently and is forever grateful to the staff at the Sandusky Campus. Loretta is thriving and more than ready to tackle new obstacles. "I would recommend this building to anyone!"

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Henry" came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus as a long-term resident. His family struggled with the decision, but ultimately felt that the staff at the Napoleon Campus could more adequately provide for his needs. Henry was very reluctant to live there, but shortly after admission, the staff invited him to a classic car show in the parking lot. His family was also invited, and they joined in with the festivities. The event included a live band, the car show, food, beverages, and more. The band was a hit, and Henry quickly found himself dancing to the old-time music. After the event, his daughter walked by and the staff noticed that she was crying. When asked if she was okay, she responded, "I'm great! I just haven't seen my dad dance like that in 20 years!"



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Dale" was first admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for rehabilitation after surgery. He was very weak and needed a wheelchair to get around. During his stay, Dale was weaned off oxygen, and therapists worked diligently with him to build up his strength and endurance. He willingly participated in therapy, because he had a strong desire to return home. When Dale was discharged, he was able to walk independently out the door. Dale's second rehab admission to the Wolf Creek Campus was after he had open heart surgery. During this stay, his wife of 60 years needed rehab services and was also admitted to Wolf Creek. They were placed in adjoining rooms. Both have shared that their stays were positive experiences. "Although I was glad to go home, I enjoyed my stays at Wolf Creek," Dale commented. "The staff was both encouraging and compassionate. My wife and I would highly recommend Genacross Lutheran Services."

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HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Melody” is a client of Genacross Lutheran Services through the HOME Choice program. She had been living in a skilled nursing facility for over a year because of many injuries and illnesses. The Genacross Service Coordinator assigned to help Melody transition back into community living was impressed by her outgoing nature and upbeat attitude, especially in the face of much adversity. When they first met, Melody had recently been diagnosed with colon cancer, but she was still eager to regain her independence. The Service Coordinator encountered difficulties finding a suitable apartment for Melody; however, a pleasant one was eventually found in a desired location. Since moving in, Melody has been very happy in her new home, and everything seems to be falling into place for her, especially since she is now cancer free. Melody’s coordinator says that her positive outlook on life is something everyone should strive to imitate. Working with Melody to help her become independent again and seeing all the positive changes in her life has been a great experience, the coordinator added. “It is times like these that make one so passionate about helping others and knowing your presence can make a world of difference in a client’s life.”

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Genacross Family & Youth Services offers Partners in Treatment, a weekend-long reunification program offered each month, where families receive training that will assist them in dealing with the special needs of their children. Participating youth and family members are also provided with group and family therapy. While the Partners in Treatment program offers training and therapy that is important in the reunification process, it also offers much more for families who are in different stages of the process. Often times, peer feedback and mentoring are just as helpful as the training and therapy that they receive. The program also offers families the realization that they are not alone. Most families do not receive much support from their local communities and friends, who do not know what it means to have a special needs child. Spending time in a therapeutic setting with others who have gone through similar situations is often comforting. Hundreds of families have participated in the program; and, with overnight accommodations provided, they have come from as far away as the state of Washington.



It is common for Genacross staff to get phone calls and emails from families months or years after discharge to thank them for the help they received through the Partners in Treatment program. “Malcolm” and his mother participated in the program for several months before they were permanently reunited. A year later, she sent a thank you card with a picture of Malcolm in his graduation cap and gown. She wrote that she never would have seen Malcolm graduate if not for the services offered by Family & Youth. In another instance, “John” and his mother participated in the program for just over a year. Nine months later, John’s mother emailed staff with an update. He was excelling in school and at home. He had spent the summer as a camp counselor’s assistant at the YMCA. He was taking guitar lessons and had planned on asking a friend to the Homecoming dance. Dozens of similar stories have come out of Partners in Treatment since it began in the 1990s, and the program is just one of the ways Genacross Lutheran Services effectively serves clients.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

On the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus, there are several people who minister to residents. In an official capacity, Chaplain Singh conducts worship and praise services, Bible study, and devotions, and makes personal contacts with those in need. Volunteers also provide spiritual care in a variety of ways: by leading a Saturday praise and communion service, holding a hymn sing, or seeing to the faith needs of those who are Roman Catholic. In addition, members of the Toledo Campus sometimes minister to each other. One resident conducts a weekly Bible study with her peers, and another, upon completion of training, will soon be able to distribute communion. In an informal way, of course, all staff members can minister to residents. Every time someone grabs a blanket for a resident who is cold or gets a drink of water for someone who is thirsty, they are ministering. There is also the staff member who notices a resident has very little to wear and locates or purchases items of clothing, or the person who greets others with a smile and kind words, and then takes the time to visit for a few minutes. The campus is truly blessed to have all of these people reaching out to residents. Each day, the Lord provides many opportunities to minister in large and small ways. By choosing to do so, people’s actions reflect Christ to residents, their families and each other.

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