



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services*



November 2017

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Rebecca” can be very helpful and cheerful. She loves nature and animals, but it hasn’t always been that way. She has a history of being emotionally abused by her father prior to him going to prison. Subsequently, Rebecca disclosed that she had also been abused at the age of 10 by her maternal grandfather. After disclosing this abuse, she became defiant, ran away from home, and expressed suicidal thoughts. She had violent outbursts toward her mom, her mom’s boyfriend, and her brother. Rebecca was placed with Genacross Family & Youth Services at the Oregon Group Home and began school at the Blackmon Alternate Learning Center. She met with her therapist two to three times each week to address symptoms of her many mental health diagnoses. She also participated in group therapy five days a week.

Rebecca and her mom also participated each month in the Partners in Treatment weekend program to work on repairing and strengthening their relationship. Slowly, Rebecca’s defiance started to wane, and her violent outbursts began to disappear. The relationship with her mom showed improvement, and she was beginning to accept her mom’s boyfriend, now husband, as her stepfather. Supervised visits at her mom’s house progressed into unsupervised visits. After almost a year and a half, Rebecca was able to reunify with her family. In order to make the transition more successful, her mom transferred from third to first shift so that she could spend more time with Rebecca and provide her with the support and structure that she thrived on while with Family & Youth Services. The family is excited for this second chance and is confident their story will have a happy ending.

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

Thanksgiving Day is a favorite holiday for many of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus residents. Recently, they shared some of what they are most thankful for this year. God, his love for us, and his many gifts were named by quite a few residents. “Pauline” put it this way: “With him, we have everything. Without him, we have nothing.” Family was something else that many are thankful for. They are grateful for the time they get to spend with family members. “Marlene” said that it has been a good year because she just attended her granddaughter’s wedding, and her grandson will be married soon. In addition, many residents were thankful to be alive. “Elaine” stated, “My 93rd birthday is in December, and I want to celebrate.” Some residents in The Labuhn Center voiced gratitude for the progress they are making in therapy. As “Mary Ann” commented, “I’m thankful that God gave me the strength to fight.” Several residents also expressed appreciation for being at the Toledo Campus. “I’m thankful for this beautiful place here and for all of you,” “Johann” stated. “You all take such good care of us, and I love you all.” It’s a two-way street. Staff members are thankful for the residents who share their lives, love and faith. Happy Thanksgiving from the staff at the Toledo Campus.



Although pseudonyms are used in the above ministry stories, Genacross follows HIPAA guidelines and has either obtained permission from our residents, patients, or clients, or has sufficiently concealed their identities, thereby enabling us to use their stories of God’s grace.

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## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Monica” is a HOME Choice client who recently moved back into the community after being in a nursing facility for two years. She had battled several health conditions that prolonged her stay at the care facility. After working hard to regain her strength, Monica was determined to transition back into the community. Her family was right by her side and very helpful with ensuring her safety and well-being. Monica moved into an apartment with her daughter, which made her very happy. The Genacross Service Coordinator assigned to Monica assisted in getting furniture, household goods, groceries, medical equipment, and other items necessary to make her transition successful. Monica is so excited to be living in her own apartment out in the community. She and her family are very appreciative of the services provided by the Service Coordinator through the HOME Choice program. They have thanked the Service Coordinator numerous times for her hard work and dedication, and Monica is doing very well.

## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Sebastian’s” wife has been a long-term care resident at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus for almost seven years. Sebastian lives independently at home and visits his wife regularly. Recently, Sebastian began falling and was having difficulty walking. He was hospitalized, and, when he was ready for discharge, it was determined by the therapy team at the hospital that he needed additional rehabilitation before returning home on his own. Sebastian knew immediately that he wanted to come to the Sandusky Campus where his wife lived. He was given a room right across the hall from her, and they had the opportunity to spend quality time together each day. Sebastian was at the Sandusky Campus for a little over a month and was able to get the therapy he needed to live on his own again. He attributes the great care and rehabilitation services he received during his stay for his quick recovery.

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Dale” has lived in a nursing home for many years due to health issues that require nursing care and assistance. Because of age (he is only 75 years old), he felt out of place, as if he was not living the life he could be living. He missed his independence. “My self-esteem was getting low,” he said, and he did not want the nursing home to be his permanent home. Then the phone call came from the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. An assisted living apartment had become available. Dale believed his life was going to change for the better! He now has the independence that he hoped for, along with the medical care that he periodically needs. His self-esteem has improved greatly, and the Wolf Creek Campus has become more than just a place to live. With the anonymous donation of a motorized scooter, Dale is now ready to investigate all that the campus has to offer. He looks forward to spending the rest of his years in his new home.



## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Allen” was in his 30s when he was suddenly diagnosed with a progressive condition that would eventually cripple him. He progressed from slight numbness to full paralysis within five years. When Allen came to reside at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus, he was miserable and, understandably, was not coping well mentally. He could not talk or move, but he held on. All the staff could do was try to keep him comfortable. He finally decided to receive hospice services, and staff members knew he could not hang on much longer. He was getting progressively worse and seemed tortured by his disease. The staff struggled to watch his obvious internal battle; he just could not find peace. Everyone felt helpless, and then one of his caregivers suggested reaching out to friends from his past to see if he had any unresolved issues. Several old friends were contacted, and one person was very adamant about wanting to speak to Allen before his passing. This friend also happened to be a pastor. A phone conference was set up for that night. Staff explained to the friend that he would have to do all the talking on speaker phone, but assured him that Allen’s brain was unaffected by the condition and he could still hear. A staff member waited with Allen for the call and then left the room and shut the door to give them complete privacy. Later, she returned and got Allen ready for bed. He seemed more at peace.