



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services*



December 2017

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Back in May, the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus was blessed to begin caring for “Kim,” who, because of an unfortunate accident, was a new quadriplegic at only 42 years of age. She also had a large wound at the base of her spine that needed extra attention and required the use of a special mattress. The hospital discharging Kim was over an hour away, but she was referred to the Napoleon Campus by her insurance company. Since Kim had developed a strong relationship with her physician, he agreed to continue to manage her care by telemedicine. The doctor used video, via an iPad, to inspect and treat her wound alongside the Napoleon Campus nursing staff. Since her arrival, Kim has worked hard in therapy to gain strength in her hands and legs, and it has been a joy to see the progress and determination of this young woman. At this time, Kim can feed herself and maneuver in a wheelchair. Now that she has improved, she is looking forward to moving to a facility closer to her family. As staff members say their goodbyes to Kim, she reminds everyone that they will see her again when she “walks in” to say hello!

## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

As the last resident left the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus on December 15, it was a sad moment, but also a fulfilling one. The support from the Sandusky community churches, local businesses, and various groups has been much appreciated by the staff and residents. The ideas that “everything happens for a reason, and God does have plans for us so we must trust in him” were evident as the campus prepared to close. Each of the residents was able to be placed in the community of their choice; many of them at the same locations as their friends. It is a true blessing that they were all able to be settled before the holidays, so that they can enjoy the celebrations, activities, and entertainment that comes with this time of year. As the days went by and the residents left one by one, staff felt the emptiness in their hearts. While nearly everyone wished there was a different outcome, the dwindling staff pulled together to make sure the residents were able to move to their new homes with a minimum of complications. As the hallways become dark and quiet, the remaining staff found comfort in knowing the residents were settling in – many visiting with old friends and making new ones, and maybe even seeing their favorite employees in their new jobs. For the last time, Merry Christmas to former residents and staff and to the wonderful Sandusky community, from the Sandusky Campus, long known as Lutheran Memorial Home.



## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Barb” is in her mid-sixties and was admitted to a local hospital after having a panic attack. She is also physically impaired, as a result of a massive stroke. She lived in a not-so-desirable area of town with a family member. Since Barb was taken advantage of financially by her family, an eviction occurred while she was in the hospital. Subsequently, Barb did not want her family involved in her discharge planning. With determination, Barb, along with the Genacross Service Coordinator assigned to her case, was able to find housing quickly. The Service Coordinator linked Barb to transportation services, waiver services for in-home help, and a payee to manage finances and prevent further financial issues between Barb and her family. Barb was able to purchase some new furniture, dishes, and startup groceries, as well as pay the security deposit and first month’s rent with her HOME Choice funds. Comfortably and quickly, Barb transitioned back into a community setting, where she can live independently again.

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.

# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Millie’s” life at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus began in May, when she had back surgery and needed rehabilitation. She spent two weeks recovering on the Wolf Creek Campus and then returned home. She did very well living on her own at home; however, she developed a staph infection that brought her back to the Wolf Creek Campus in July. Her infection cleared up, she went in for another back surgery, and for the third time she returned to Wolf Creek for rehabilitation. Millie was in a lot of pain, and she and her family were amazed at the amount of patience the staff had during her rehab stays. “My therapists, Mike and Becky, are my favorite buddies,” Millie said. “Sometimes they had to be firm with me to keep me motivated, but everything they said came true. I doubted ever being able to walk again, but I did.” Millie also praised the work of the discharge planner. “She was always there for me; anything I needed, Erica was the one to get it for me.” Millie cannot compliment the staff at the Wolf Creek Campus enough. After experiencing three different rehabilitative stays at the campus, Millie and her family became more impressed after each one. “It’s everyone – the nurses, aides, dietary staff, therapists, and housekeepers,” Millie said. “Although I was in a lot of pain and needed a lot of care, no one seemed to be put out by my needs. Everyone is wonderful!”

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Vivian” lived for many years with her biological mom, moving from state to state. During that time, she experienced severe abuse, and protective services often had to remove her from her mother’s home. In early childhood, Vivian began displaying temper outbursts. As she got older, these outbursts grew into shouting, hitting, spitting, kicking, and stripping off her clothes, as well as urinating and defecating on herself. She suffered from hallucinations and nightmares about her past abuse. She was residing in a psychiatric hospital in Michigan when she was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services for care and treatment. When Vivian was placed at the Maumee Youth Center, her caseworker was amazed that the staff was not fazed by the description of her behaviors.

Since placement, Vivian has responded well to the program’s structure, and staff has realized that she responds best to nurturing and guidance. She did well in the structured setting of the on-site school as well, receiving As and Bs on her grade cards. In addition, Vivian has individual counseling once or twice each week. She also participates in group therapy five days a week and other forms of treatment when available. She has made such progress that she began this school year at Four County Career Center, where she attends half days in the floral design program. She began this two-year program as a junior. The program has supplied floral arrangements for honors banquets and weddings, and participated in a show at the Toledo Zoo. Vivian often brings home the faux flower arrangements, and she is working with the Director of Education and Youth Services at Genacross Lutheran Services to deliver them to several of the organization’s continuing care communities for older adults.



## TOLEDO CAMPUS

It is hard to believe that it is December and Christmas is near. However, the Santa and Mrs. Claus displayed in the front lobby of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus confirm that it indeed is. As the holiday approaches, staff wanted to learn what Christmas means to the residents. When asked to complete a simple phrase, the residents shared the following: Christmas is... “sharing and caring about all of your loved ones,” “a time for family,” “a blessed day celebrating the birth of baby Jesus,” “warm memories with high hopes and plans for another year,” “a time for giving,” and “a joyful time of year.” Notice that there was no mention of Santa, presents, shopping, or even food. Many spoke of Jesus’ birth and family. This is one more example of our elders showing us what is really important in life. From everyone at the Toledo Campus: many wishes for a blessed Christmas for you and your family; one that leaves you with “warm memories with high hopes and plans for another year.”