



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services*



January 2019

## GENACROSS AT HOME

"Sue" had received therapy services from Genacross at Home and was discharged after meeting her therapy goals. She was doing well, but due to an illness and subsequent medical complications, she was admitted to the hospital. Sue called Genacross at Home and told the staff that "I will need Ashley back to help me get better." Prior to Sue's discharge from the hospital, Ashley, the Genacross at Home Physical Therapy Assistant who had worked with her previously, went to the hospital on her personal time to visit and see how Sue was doing. When Ashley arrived at the hospital, Sue was very anxious about her medical bills and insurance. Ashley sat with Sue while she called her insurance company and helped her communicate with the hospital staff to straighten out her insurance issues and medical bills. Sue has been discharged from the hospital and continues therapy treatments with Ashley and the Genacross at Home team.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Martha" is at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for rehabilitation. She loves music and was a piano player in her younger years. Since suffering a stroke, Martha becomes easily agitated and will often insist on doing everything on her own. During a recent therapy session, Martha's therapist, who has been working with her every day, thought of a new way to get Martha to participate in therapy. The therapist knew of her love for music, so together they attended a musical activity being held on the campus. They enjoyed the music playing for a few minutes, and the therapist noticed Martha relaxing a bit. With the music still playing, they worked on transfers and ambulation, and Martha showed no signs of agitation. Then they began to dance. Martha was having a blast, not even realizing she was participating in a full therapy session. This impromptu idea allowed the therapist to work on balance, strength, and stability, while allowing Martha to experience something she loved. The smile on the resident's face is one that will be cherished. Throughout the rest of the day, the Napoleon Campus staff could hear Martha telling everyone about her morning's musical therapy session.



## TOLEDO CAMPUS

Following a stay at a local hospital, "Stella" joined the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus family in November. She had been happy and healthy prior to the day she fell ill from a terrible infection. While still in the hospital, her husband made the decision to admit Stella to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus to continue treatments for the infection. When she arrived at The Labuhn Center on the Toledo Campus, the infection was lingering in her body, and she was still receiving IV antibiotics. Nursing staff carefully monitored the infection and addressed all concerns promptly. "The nursing staff here is very considerate and compassionate," Stella said. "They do their best to make your stay here as easy as possible; I feel like I'm being well taken care of and that soon I'll be strong enough to go home!" After many weeks of hard work, Stella successfully completed physical therapy and the antibiotic treatments. She returned home with Genacross at Home services to complete her recovery.

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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## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Georgia” was 11 years old when she was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services. Her behavioral issues included inattention, defiance, tantrums, and aggression toward her mother, grandparents and peers. Incidents such as threatening her mother with a knife and endangering an infant for whom Georgia’s mother was babysitting culminated in the local county’s Department of Job and Family Services taking custody of Georgia. She was sent to detention for nearly 10 months before being placed at the East Toledo Group Home in October 2015. Georgia responded well to the structure and routine at the home. She met with her therapist, participated in group therapy, and had consistent visits with her mother and grandparents. With her family’s support, Georgia worked toward the goal of reunification. Through family therapy appointments, participation in the Partners in Treatment weekend program, and learning coping skills to control her anger, she showed steady improvement. Georgia and her family also found their faith to be a strong motivator and support for them. At least once a month, they attended church services together in Toledo. After over three years of intense treatment, Georgia’s grandparents and mother brought her back to their home to live. They will continue to participate in therapy as a family, and Georgia will continue with individual therapy to help ensure their reunification remains successful.

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“John” is a community client who had lived in a nursing facility for nearly two years. He had some major health issues due to his diabetes and not managing his health. John had lived in a mobile home, but returning there was no longer an option. He also has dialysis three times a week, which makes him very tired and weak. After enrolling in the HOME Choice program to help him transition back into independent community living, a Genacross Service Coordinator helped John find housing. He also needed furniture and household items. With the help of the coordinator, he was able to purchase what he needed to furnish the apartment and some food. John moved into a spacious apartment, with a large window and a balcony with a view. He loves drawing and is an avid reader, so he has enough space to draw and read his books. John is very grateful for his new home and its access to the local library and public transportation. He had really been looking forward to the day when he could live on his own again. Through HOME Choice funding, the Genacross Service Coordinator was able to make John’s dream to live independently come true.



## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Three days after “Donna” visited her orthopedic surgeon to schedule knee replacement surgery, her legs gave out, she could not walk, and she was in excruciating pain. After being rushed to the hospital, she was diagnosed with numerous fractures in her spine, despite not having any recent falls or accidents. Surgery was not an option due to Donna’s lack of bone strength. After a week’s stay in the hospital, Donna came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for rehabilitation to regain her strength and walking ability. When she arrived, she was completely bedridden, could not move, was unable to sit up, and was in a great deal of pain. She was familiar with the campus because she had visited friends who had rehabilitated here before, and it was the only place she wanted to go for her recovery. She felt “at home” and “comfortable” here. Donna received physical therapy the day she was admitted to Wolf Creek. Because of her high level of pain, she did not understand why she had to have therapy right away. Looking back, however, Donna realizes how important immediate movement was to facilitate the functional return of her muscle strength. Once her pain subsided, her therapy became more intense. Donna is now able to move with a walker, get out of bed on her own, sit up by herself, get in and out of her car unassisted, go up and down steps on her own, and is looking forward to returning home soon.