



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services*

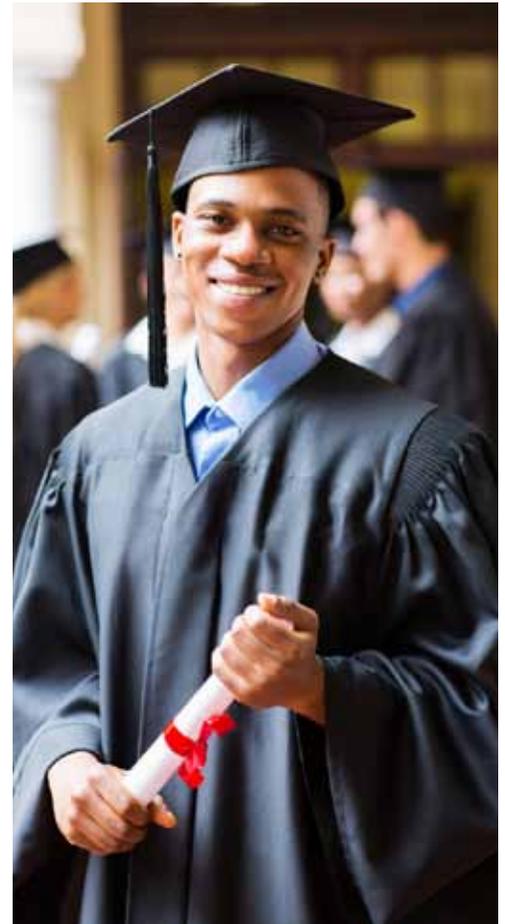


July 2017

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

When “Mikey” was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services, the people involved in his case provided little hope. Because of alcoholism and drug issues, his mother had neglected Mikey and his younger brother. She had gone through treatment and was sober, only to be diagnosed with terminal cancer. Prior to his mother’s diagnosis, Mikey had exhibited violent behaviors and damaged property. He did not like school and was underachieving. He had been diagnosed with Conduct Disorder, as well as ADHD and Major Depressive Disorder. He had even been placed in juvenile detention for assaulting staff at his last placement. When he arrived at the Maumee Youth Center, he was pleasant, but quiet. However, his first incident of violence came only three days later. Staff worked patiently with Mikey to teach him coping skills to deal with his anger and his feelings surrounding his mother’s diagnosis. He met with his therapist twice each week.

Family & Youth staff traveled the three hours to his mother’s home to bring her to the Partners in Treatment weekends, where she and Mikey participated in family and group therapy. Slowly, Mikey’s relationship with his mother improved, and his younger brother also started attending the weekend program. As their family unit began to heal, Mikey showed signs of implementing the skills that his caregivers and therapist were teaching him. He was becoming less violent, his grades were improving, and he was able to participate in group therapy without fighting with his peers. Then the day came that both Mikey and staff were dreading. His mother passed away. Mikey, however, adjusted well. He attended the funeral and spent time with his family, with Genacross staff by his side for support. After his mother’s death, Mikey had a goal – to finish school and move in with his older sister who was caring for his younger brother. In May of this year, Mikey achieved his goal. His sister and brother-in-law were in the crowd of people to celebrate his graduation. Afterward, Mikey left to stay with them until college classes start in the fall.



## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

When his multiple sclerosis was causing him distress at home, “Matt” chose the Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus for a skilled stay. He had been to other skilled facilities in the area and knew exactly what to expect upon admission. Matt worked day in and day out with therapy to regain strength, so he could return home. “I needed all the therapy I could get, since I live alone and have no family,” Matt said. “Genacross delivered exactly that!” In addition, the nursing staff monitored his condition continuously to ensure he was getting the best care. That’s when the unthinkable happened: Matt was diagnosed with colon cancer. He knew he was in the right place to fight the disease. Genacross nursing staff worked closely with Matt to ensure he was comfortable and arranged for transportation to his treatments. In June, Matt was strong enough to return home. “For a moment I thought I’d give up, but there was no way the staff was giving up on me,” Matt stated. “I can’t imagine myself going anywhere but the Sandusky 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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## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Merle” had been difficult to care for, as he would hit, scratch, and bite staff when they attempted to assist him with bathing, toileting, dressing, eating, and other activities of daily living. He had dementia with behavioral disturbances, and staff members at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus were nearly exhausted trying to come up with new approaches to help Merle. One day, Merle was visited by a comfort dog, and he immediately woke up, talked to the dog, petted him, and his mood did a complete turnaround. It was such a blessing to see Merle smile and his face light up with love and affection for this dog. Who would have guessed that a simple dog visit would give staff an idea how to help Merle be more cooperative during his care? Many times, God uses people to bring blessing into our lives; but this time, God used a dog.

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

Not long ago, Lutheran Homes Society changed its name to Genacross Lutheran Services, in part, to reflect the organization’s commitment to helping people across many generations. Over the past several months, the activity department at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus has had the opportunity to get to know a young lady from one of the Genacross Family & Youth Services group homes. Her name is “Stacy,” and she worked at the Toledo Campus to gain actual job experience. “The staff has changed my life, and the way I see life,” Stacy said. “Genacross has helped me with getting an amazing job and an amazing opportunity to attend school to become an STNA. I now have gone from failing grades to straight As. Along with this, I am graduating high school. I never thought I would come this far.” Recently, Stacy aged out of the home in which she had been living, but not before Genacross staff and caregivers taught her behavioral management and other life skills to prepare her. Staff at the Toledo Campus said that it is obvious from working with her that Stacy possesses positive values and a good work ethic. She was great with the residents – exhibiting humor, compassion and commitment. Staff members agree that she will be dearly missed now that she has moved on to start her adult life, but she remains in their thoughts and prayers.



## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Donald” is a young 66-year-old male who, unfortunately, cannot walk because of neuropathy in his legs caused by diabetes. He will always be in a wheelchair and need the care provided by a nursing home. As sad as this may seem, Donald enjoys his life at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. He has lived in three other nursing homes and disliked them all, but he loves the Wolf Creek Campus and is very comfortable here. He says that his care is very good and the nursing staff is helpful and knowledgeable. He loves the food, the therapy, and the exercise classes. He also feels the campus offers an extensive variety of activities, including games, cooking opportunities, and church services. He is very pleased with his private room, the extra-large bed, the wide hallways, and his custom-made wheelchair. “Everything is perfect here,” Donald said. He is happy to be living on the Wolf Creek Campus and looks forward to spending the rest of his days here. “This is what I envisioned in a nursing home – a safe, comfortable, and active place to live. Thank you, Wolf Creek!”

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Because he had no home, “Roger” was admitted into a nursing facility following a hospital stay. He used to work at a hotel, but he has been in and out of jobs and housing for nearly ten years since his health began to deteriorate. Roger is 38 years old and has chronic kidney disease. He recently began dialysis, which he is receiving three times a week. With the help of the Genacross Service Coordinator assigned to him through the HOME Choice program, Roger was able to transition out of the nursing facility. The Service Coordinator helped him find housing, furnish his new home, and obtain services. Roger has been approved for disability, and his apartment accommodates both him and his young daughter. He is determined to be successful in his new life and has worked hard to accomplish many goals. Roger also has expressed his extreme appreciation for all of the assistance he has received from his Genacross Service Coordinator.

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