



God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society
December 2015



On a daily basis, Lutheran Homes Society impacts hundreds of residents, clients and families. The stories told here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Sharing these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's lives.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Doug” was admitted to Lutheran Memorial Home after being discharged from a long-term acute care hospital. He had been in a severe car accident and had experienced multiple complications while in the hospital. When he arrived at the Sandusky campus for skilled nursing and therapy services, he was weak and required assistance with all aspects of his daily living. The nursing and therapy departments were able to maintain his oxygen levels, begin a soft diet, and assist him in managing his own care needs. The nursing and therapy departments also provided emotional support and encouragement when he became discouraged over the time needed for his health to show signs of improvement. During his stay, Doug felt he was too weak to go back to work and wanted to apply for Social Security benefits. The Life Enrichment Coordinator successfully assisted him with the application. Eventually, he was discharged home to his family, but periodically he calls to let staff know that he is continuing to do well. He is very appreciative of all the help he received while here, and often expresses his thanks, making such comments as “I thank God that I was given another opportunity to live my life and won’t take anything for granted ever again.”

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Jeff” moved into Kettle Run senior apartments after living in his parent’s home for over 40 years. His parents are both deceased, and the house, as Jeff described it, was in very bad condition. The kitchen ceiling was falling down in some areas, and there was no hot water. Jeff had to boil water to take a sponge bath in the kitchen sink. He used nightlights to light the rooms in his home to save money on his electric bill, just like his mother had when she was alive. When Jeff moved to Kettle Run, his bed had a very old mattress that had belonged to his parents before they passed away and a frame that was bigger than the mattress. The bed was not stable enough to sleep on safely. Staff at Kettle Run decided to try and find a new bed for Jeff. To his surprise and amazement, LHS was able to provide him with a bed for his apartment. Jeff said his home at Kettle Run is very modern for him, and he really appreciates having dependable heat, sufficient lighting, and hot showers.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Violet” underwent a successful hip replacement and came directly from the hospital to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek for rehabilitation. She had been very apprehensive about the surgery, because she was uneasy about her stay afterward in a skilled nursing/rehab facility. Violet, who had an independent and busy lifestyle, did not like the idea of being away from her home. She was in rehab for three weeks and quickly showed progress. She started with a wheelchair, advanced to a walker, and now, after returning home and receiving outpatient therapy, is walking with a cane. Violet speaks highly of the Wolf Creek campus. She loved all the staff and her therapists. While here, Violet participated in many activities, and she especially enjoyed the Halloween trick-or-treat night with all the children coming through the building. She also got along well with the other residents...in fact, she misses them. Even though Violet did not like being away from home, she really enjoyed her rehab stay at Wolf Creek and is thankful for the results she has achieved.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Sarah” had been a long-time resident of Lutheran Home at Napoleon. Her family had all passed away, and she longed more and more to join her family in the arms of Jesus. As years went by, Sarah began to wonder if she was really going to make it to her 100th birthday. Staff members understood Sarah’s longing to go home to Jesus and be with her family, but as long as she was with them, they were determined to make whatever time she had left on earth comfortable and joyful. Sarah’s 100th birthday arrived and was celebrated with a surprise birthday party with cake, balloons and Sarah’s favorite flowers. She was all smiles and could hardly believe she was actually 100 years old!

In the weeks that followed her birthday celebration, Sarah’s appetite failed. Even pleasure foods and her favorite activities did not hold the same excitement for her as they had in the past. Sarah was no longer comfortable in her regular wheel chair, so a padded, reclining wheel chair was made available to help keep her comfortable. Sarah was brought to worship services, intergenerational activities, music programs, and to the lounge area where she always used to enjoy sitting and watching people. However, it became more and more apparent that Sarah was failing, so staff gave Sarah everything she needed to keep her comfortable and called in hospice services so she had the best possible end-of-life care. Finally, Sarah was called home to rest in the arms of her Savior. Saying goodbye to a long-time resident is much like saying goodbye to a family member. Sarah will be missed by all whose lives she touched.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Stephanie” was placed at the Wynn Treatment Facility after numerous failed foster placements. She had a history of abuse, neglect, and harming animals, and she displayed poor boundaries and hygiene. She also attended special education classes. From the time she was placed at Wynn, Stephanie worked hard and tried her best to succeed. Initially, she attended alternative learning centers, but she now attends a mainstream school, where she recently went to her first school dance. She has been able to work through her issues with harming animals and attended hippotherapy (horse therapy) classes. She advanced quickly and was able to perform some of the most advanced skills. Stephanie has since graduated from the hippotherapy program. She also shows a better understanding of boundaries with peers and adults, and continues to improve her hygiene and self-care. She has regular visits with her mother and step-father and often visits with her grandmother, as well. With the help of caring and supportive staff, Stephanie has made huge strides to improve her life.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

When asked about the therapy department at The Labuhn Center, “Marcy” has nothing but praise. “They’re great, and they’ve brought me a long way,” she said. Marcy had fallen and sustained a brain injury. Following surgery, she came to the Lutheran Home of Toledo campus for her rehabilitation. Marcy does not remember the early days of her stay. Suffering from severe aphasia, she was unable to verbalize her thoughts and ideas at first. She was confused and disoriented. Speech therapy began with automatic responses – ABCs, 123s, months of the year, and sentence completion. From there Marcy progressed to expressing wants and needs and to having conversations at a simple level. She thinks “the speech therapist is wonderful” and is grateful for all her progress. Marcy is back to reading her James Patterson book and visiting daily with her sister. She has been to the salon to get her hair done. She has also been working with physical and occupational therapy. At first Marcy was a two-assist transfer and had difficulty sequencing an assigned task. Now she is gaining strength, transferring as a minimal one-person assist, and working on dressing herself with minimal help. Staff members comment on how very motivated Marcy is and how hard she works in rehab. It is exactly that motivation and hard work that will get Marcy back to her assisted living apartment and her favorite activities.