



# God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society  
January 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

"Tom" arrived at Lutheran Memorial Home from an out-of-town hospital. He had been diagnosed with cancer and suffered a hemorrhagic stroke during treatment. Tom was very depressed and frustrated because he had failed to make any therapy progress during his hospital stay. He was also upset because his wife had been told that his potential for recovery was poor. Upon arriving at the Sandusky campus, staff members immediately went to work and, to Tom's surprise, he began making progress. Staff worked diligently with him and was also able to coordinate appointments with specialists in town versus traveling an hour to get treatment. This eliminated a great deal of stress and allowed Tom to focus more on his recovery. Tom still has a ways to go, but he has made remarkable progress. He no longer has the two active, chronic infections that plagued him when he was admitted. He was also non-verbal, but now can express his needs and desires. In addition, he now can sit in a wheelchair and move himself around, after arriving bedbound and unable to do tasks independently. Tom and his wife are grateful for all of the staff's efforts and the special care that is being provided. Tom continues to work hard and make significant strides in his recovery.

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Due to a car accident, 53-year-old "Brandon" had numerous broken bones and a collapsed lung. He was in the hospital for a week after receiving titanium rods in his femur and hip. Following the surgery, Brandon could not move or "feel" his right leg, and he said it was as "heavy as a tree trunk." He came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek for his rehabilitation. Soon after he began physical therapy, Brandon "felt" his leg again. He was able to raise his leg and bend his knee. Brandon was elated over these changes. He had feared that he would never feel his leg again, but now he knew his leg was coming back and that therapy was working. His doctor was extremely pleased with how much stronger Brandon's leg was and his overall progress. Brandon is highly complimentary of the Wolf Creek therapy staff and says he would recommend Wolf Creek to anyone because "they do a great job."



## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Cynthia" has difficulty with communication and has requested that an LHS Service Coordinator accompany her to doctor appointments. The Service Coordinator assists Cynthia by writing down notes from each visit and relaying information received from one doctor to another to keep them updated on her health issues. Cynthia has been having difficulty getting some of her medications, and, at a recent visit, her pulmonologist noticed that needed medication was missing from her medication list. The Service Coordinator called Cynthia's pharmacy and requested a refill. The pharmacy refilled the medication after receiving authorization from her pulmonologist. The Service Coordinator then accompanied Cynthia to her primary care physician appointment and informed the physician of what had happened. Now, the medication has been included on her list as a regular refill. Cynthia's story is just one example of how LHS Service Coordinators can help seniors live independently.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Ellen” was admitted to Lutheran Home at Napoleon’s care center because of an upper respiratory infection that had left her weak and unable to care for herself. At 92 years of age, she still lived independently, taking care of her own yard, gardening, and household cleaning. Her daughter lived out of state and tried many times to provide her with assistance; however, Ellen would not allow any help. When the hospital told the daughter that Ellen needed a care facility, she was at a loss. She quickly came and toured various facilities in the area to decide where her mother should go. She chose Lutheran Home at Napoleon because of the time that staff took to explain the process of transitioning to the campus and the various services available. They also stated that if Ellen’s goal was to return home then that would be their goal as well. They further explained that a home assessment would be done prior to discharge to ensure she was capable of living independently. The daughter needed to go back to her home in California, so staff arranged for telephone care conferences to update her on her mother’s progress. This worked well for the daughter, and she was grateful for the communication regarding Ellen’s improvement, as it allowed her to make arrangements with her employer to be here to take her mother home.

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

Both in her home life and during her stay on the Lutheran Home at Toledo campus, an apt description of “Virginia” is “a busy woman.” Prior to her short-term rehabilitation stay, she provided care to both young and elderly loved ones. While in The Labuhn Center, she was always on the go, participating in a variety of activities. Virginia was no stranger to the rehabilitation center when she came here as a patient. Both her father and mother-in-law had also benefitted from its services. It would be fair to say that both she and her husband were satisfied with the care that their parents received. After working hard in therapy, Virginia was able to return to caring for the loved ones who mean so much to her. In Virginia’s thank you note to the staff she stated, “No words can tell you how special all of you are and how much I appreciate every thing you did for me.”



## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Sheila” came to the LHS Maumee Youth Center from a secure, out-of-state juvenile psychiatric facility. She was withdrawn and lacked any sort of self-confidence or ability to make good choices. Over the next several months, with the help of her therapist and front-line staff, Sheila progressed and began to take control over her thoughts and behaviors. All was going well until she went with LHS staff for a court hearing. Shortly after getting into the van for the ride back, she demonstrated unsafe behaviors that necessitated the police being called. She was sent back to the facility where she had been prior to coming to LHS Family and Youth Services. Sheila had irrationally thought that if she did not return to the Center, she would be sent to live with her mother. It was quite an ordeal to get her back across state lines to the care of Family & Youth staff.

For several weeks after her return, Sheila exhibited unsafe behaviors and required one-to-one staffing. Gradually, however, she came to realize that the only way to return to her mother’s care was to work on her own thoughts and behaviors. Sheila began to make progress and work toward her goals. Through the Partners in Treatment program, Sheila had a weekend visit with her mother each month. Since Sheila’s mother did not drive, LHS staff transported her to and from each weekend visit. During these visits Sheila’s therapist conducted family therapy sessions. Staff also transported Sheila to other family events, including a reunion in her home town.

Finally, plans were made for Sheila to move in with her mother a few weeks before Christmas. For several months prior to the anticipated move, staff transported Sheila to her mother’s new apartment for gradually longer visits. When Sheila and LHS staff appeared in court to make final arrangements, the lack of a bed was the only item prohibiting Sheila from moving. LHS staff promised the court that LHS would buy her one that very day, and the magistrate agreed. Sheila and staff returned to the Center, where they packed up all her belongings and made one last trip with her to her new home. LHS staff bought her a bed and set it up in the apartment. Sheila and her mother shed tears and expressed their gratitude for all that LHS had done to reunite them.