



# God at Work in Our Midst

Stories of the Called Ministries of Lutheran Homes Society  
March 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.

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Wanda” has been admitted to The Labuhn Center three times in a relatively short period of time. The most recent was the week before Christmas. She came for her first stay following surgery on her right foot, and her second was after surgery on her mid calf. Those were dark days for Wanda. When she cried because she was worried about her condition, the staff would give her a hug and many times helped her get through a difficult moment. Wanda said she knows that if she needs help with healing, whether it is spiritual or physical, she will get better here. Her family realizes the great care she receives and how she has become close with staff members. “I will always choose to return here – my second home – for the care that I need,” Wanda stated. “I could not imagine going anywhere else.” According to Wanda, she has been cared for by the best nurse aides and nurses. She attributes part of her healing to the kindness and compassion of the staff members, who truly show their love. Wanda was able to return home in January, physically stronger and emotionally revitalized. She is now considering coming back to Lutheran Home at Toledo as a volunteer.



## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Debra” worked hard her whole life as a nurse, a mother, and the primary person in charge of maintaining her home. Over the years, she began experiencing degeneration in her knees and eventually had to have a right knee replacement. After this surgery, she experienced a lengthy, more than five-month recovery. Eventually it was necessary to have her other knee replaced; Debra was not looking forward to the ordeal. Surgery went very well, however, and she came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek for her recovery. Debra receives therapy five days a week and is progressing nicely. She can now walk 80 feet with her walker, and going home is starting to become a reality. “My faith got me through all of this,” Debra said. “I feel so fortunate and blessed to know that I will be able to walk again. I am looking forward to going home and spending time with my grandchildren. They have really been a joy in my life.”

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Tom” needed assistance last month after receiving a call from his cardiologist's office stating that he was delinquent \$150. The LHS Service Coordinator spoke with Tom, gathered all the information regarding the claim, and contacted his insurance provider. Tom's insurance provider stated that the doctor's office had received a denial from Medicare due to a coding issue, and therefore they had denied it as well. The Service Coordinator worked with Tom, his insurance provider, and the doctor's office to get the billing submitted correctly. A week later, the doctor's office contacted Tom to confirm that the bill had been paid and to tell him he could throw away the past due bill.

## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Harvey” worked hard to overcome his childhood disabilities. His parents had the same expectations for him as they did their other six children. Harvey was expected to complete his share of chores on the family farm and was raised to be independent. That is why it was so hard for Harvey to accept the fact that he needed to have surgery and that this surgery would leave him immobile for several weeks. After dealing with constant pain, Harvey finally agreed to surgery and then came to Lutheran Memorial Home for physical therapy. He received nursing care and intense therapy before he was cleared to return home with his family. Harvey was so pleased with the services he received at the Sandusky campus; he has referred two of his cousins here for respite care stays.



## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Tammy” is living successfully in an independent setting now. A few years ago, though, some people thought that would not be possible. Tammy came to LHS Family and Youth Services at the Oregon Treatment Facility due to extreme neglect. She was malnourished and living in filthy conditions in a home that had been condemned by the health department. She had been treated like an animal. At the Oregon facility, Tammy made verbal threats on a daily basis – threats to harm or kill others. She was physically aggressive as well. Through careful nurturing from front line child and youth care professionals and goal-driven individual therapy sessions, Tammy gradually began to change for the better. Then staff and clinicians, working together, found a tool to help Tammy increase positive interactions with people. They identified that Tammy would benefit from increased security through physically caring for something else. A doll was purchased for Tammy. She named the doll “Sharon.” In a short time, Tammy was making significant improvements in developing appropriate social skills. She reduced the frequency and severity of her threats and decreased her temper tantrums. By the time of Tammy’s discharge, she was able to recognize and verbalize her feelings appropriately. She was also able to resolve conflict with others in a reasonable manner.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

When “Carter” got out of the hospital, he stayed at Lutheran Home at Napoleon for his recovery. He stated that the nurses and aides were there when he needed them and kept track of his medications and doctor appointments for him. Carter was also able to start occupational and physical therapy to improve his abilities and strength. When he returned home, he decided to continue his outpatient therapy at the Napoleon campus. “The nurses, aides, cooks, housekeeping crew, and therapists were genuinely interested in my progress, as well as my health and the problems afterward. If necessary, I would go back to the Lutheran Home at Napoleon for recovery and therapy.”