



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



January 2020

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

The students from the Blackmon Alternate Learning Center who began their intergenerational program at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus in November continued the "Learning through Connections" program in December with a service project. In preparation, the students practiced with their "choir director," a staff member who is an active musician in his church. They chose to sing: "Frosty the Snowman," "Jingle Bells," "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and practiced them faithfully. They also created and decorated Christmas carol songbooks in case anyone forgot the lyrics to a song. On the designated day, the students took a school bus to the Toledo Campus. This was very exciting, especially for the younger ones who do not ride a bus to school each day. Upon their arrival, the students enjoyed a pizza party and met with the Activities Director, who then took them to four different areas on the Toledo Campus so they could sing for the residents. The students took pride in the excellent job they did and appreciated the applause and gratitude the residents showed them. During the visit, they also practiced the interpersonal skills that they had been learning in group therapy, including active listening, following directions, and the use of appropriate language. The students were respectful and worked hard to bring joy to the residents of the Toledo Campus.



HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

"Sophia" is a widow and has limited family support, with only a niece and granddaughter involved in her life. She is 93 years old and has lived in her Genacross housing community for about five months. The Genacross Service Coordinator at her housing site has been instrumental in helping Sophia get things accomplished. Recently, the service coordinator learned that Sophia did not have a phone number or working telephone. Sophia is hard of hearing, so she is unable to use a cell phone or regular phone. She did have a CapTel captioned telephone that was in storage at her niece's house; unfortunately, some of the parts were missing. The coordinator helped Sophia order the parts, and, once they arrived, the phone was assembled. With so few family members to visit her, Sophia had been very isolated. Now, with her phone set up and working, she is able to reach out and call friends when she is feeling lonely. Sophia also has regained some of her independence, because now she is able to call her physician and other services when necessary. Sophia's mood has improved greatly. The assistance of the service coordinator is a true representation of the Genacross Core Value of Wholeness of Life.

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.

GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Frank” lives at a Genacross housing community and was struggling to coordinate transportation services to his doctor’s office for routine injections, as well as to the laboratory for his monthly lab work. Increasing unsteadiness also affected Frank’s mobility and made getting out for these trips more and more difficult. After the service coordinator at his housing site referred him, a representative from Genacross at Home contacted his doctor’s office. Subsequently, Frank received ongoing skilled home health orders for his routine injection and lab work so he does not have to leave his apartment. In addition, therapy has worked with him to increase his balance and strength. The services provided by Genacross at Home have alleviated Frank’s stress, made his life a little easier, and improved his health, as well.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Andrea” is an assisted living resident on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, who came to Wolf Creek’s Health Center for therapy services after an infection in her knee and knee surgery left her unable to walk. Andrea often shared with her family that she doubted if she would ever walk again. During her rehabilitation stay, she lost her husband (who had always encouraged her) to cancer. However, the therapy and nursing care staff worked hard to keep her positive and moving forward. They urged her to continue with her physical and occupational therapy so she could meet her goals. Andrea persevered and regained her ability to walk. She says that her rehab experience has given her a better quality of life and restored her independence. She is excited to be returning to her assisted living apartment in February. Andrea is looking forward to being back with her friends in assisted living, but she still plans to visit the friends she made while completing her rehabilitation. She is “very grateful” for the care provided by the staff on the Wolf Creek Campus.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

The Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus recently held a Celebration of Life for the friends and family of “Abby.” She had been a nursing care resident for more than three and a half years, and was well known and liked on the Napoleon Campus. After her passing, family members reached out to the Napoleon Campus’ chaplain to hold a ceremony, asking him to sing her favorite hymns with fellow residents and share a few of her favorite scriptures. Abby was a lifetime collector of angels, and during the ceremony one of Abby’s daughters gave an angel to every guest. Another daughter shared several beautiful memories of her mother. Since one of Abby’s favorite pastimes was enjoying ice cream while talking to other residents and staff members, the Activities Department created an ice cream bar for this special occasion. Friends, family members and even staff were able to enjoy ice cream in memory of Abby.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

When “Mary” arrived at The Labuhn Center on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus, she was recovering from shoulder surgery and dealing with left-sided weakness and speech problems resulting from a stroke. Initially, her family had been reluctant to have her come there for her recovery, since she had not had a good experience at a previous rehab facility. Upon her arrival, though, she immediately began working with speech, physical, and occupational therapists. Within the first couple of weeks, Mary began making a remarkable turnaround. Speech therapy was working on letters, numbers and sound recognition, as she learned to read and write again. Soon she was able to express basic words and sentences to communicate her wants and needs effectively. With occupational therapy, she learned how to use adaptive equipment and her non-dominate hand to complete hygiene tasks and feed herself independently. Physical therapy focused on improving balance and strength, so that by end of her stay she was able to walk with a cane. Mary and her family are overjoyed with the progress she made during her stay. They would not hesitate to recommend The Labuhn Center to others in need of therapy and nursing care services.

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.