



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



We have been hoping and praying for quite some time now that our struggle with the coronavirus (COVID-19) would soon be over. That, of course, has not been the case, so we continue working together in every way possible to fulfill our mission. It certainly has not been easy; yet we did not expect that it would. However, we are not without hope. There have been many bright spots during the past six months. We have seen God at work in our midst in many ways, not just in worship, prayers, the study of Scripture, and the spiritual care provided by our chaplains, but also in all sorts of other activities that involve our residents, staff, and their families.

As seen in this issue, the residents we serve are truly engaged in life. They are sharing their creativity, they are busy learning, and they are having fun. Our youth love to exercise their artistic talents and their gardening expertise! Indeed God is in their midst when working on crafts and in the planting of gardens and harvesting of vegetables. Residents of the Wolf Creek Campus began Hawaiian Week by enjoying the outdoors with a Beach Party on the patio, complete with tropical drinks and fun games. When rain threatened to stop their Hot Dog Day celebration, they simply moved the picnic inside.

God was there when staff and volunteers led activities and while families visited and shared meals and brought goodies. The psalmist was right-on when he declared to God: "You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy, in your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Psalm 16:11). In fact, the residents



Youth at the Oregon group home made these adorable birds during Nature Week.



Wolf Creek Campus residents played Flamingo Ring Toss and Pineapple Bowling during Hawaiian Week.



A little rain could not spoil Hot Dog Day for Wolf Creek residents like Mary Davis.



A generous family shared treats with Napoleon Campus staff.



Toledo Campus nursing care residents now can enjoy outdoor visits with family members.



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of the Toledo Campus have learned that they can play games from a distance, even crosswords and tic-tac-toe. At the Napoleon Campus, Mary celebrated her 100th birthday with cards and flowers from family, and a delicious steak dinner prepared by the Dietary Department. Meanwhile, as a reward for their hard work, young residents from our Family & Youth Services' Oregon group home enjoyed fun in the sun at Maumee Bay State Park.

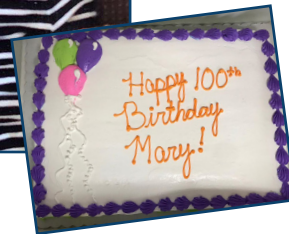
We can see that God is at work in our midst in so many ways, and that the psalmist was right, "Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy..." and "The lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced." (Psalm 126:2-3). What a difference it makes when residents have the opportunity to engage in conversation, play cards, and eat ice cream. These things may seem to be simple, but through them, God bestows the blessings of hope and joy. How important family visitations (taking place outside for now) are for our assisted living and nursing care residents. We are very excited to be able to offer them in a safe and healthy manner. Just look at their smiles (most of them, of course, are behind their masks, but they are there, nonetheless).

None of this should surprise us. A wise man in the Bible put it well: "A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22). The truth of the matter is that God did not create us to be alone; rather, he calls us to find ways to help each other through the tough times. The writer of Ecclesiastes even reminded us that "there is a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance." (Ecclesiastes 3:4). Difficult times do come, but God gives us laughter and joy to make them bearable. As we have seen at Genacross, He does this, for the most part, through dedicated staff and loving family members.

God is indeed in our midst, calling us to be His hands, giving us the opportunity to help those we serve and each other meet the challenges, heal the hurts, and get through the disappointments and frustrations that are so much a part of life. Thanks be to God!



Toledo Campus residents have a tic-tac-toe game large enough to be played at a distance.



Mary Myles celebrated her 100th birthday at the Napoleon Campus.



Youth from the Oregon group home are awarded a day on the beach at Maumee Bay State Park for their hard work over the summer.



Residents at Kettle Run senior housing in Bucyrus received ice cream and a deck of playing cards from United Healthcare.



Wolf Creek nursing care residents visit outdoors with family.