



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



September 2021

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES



“Jill” is a resident of one of the Genacross senior independent living communities. She needed a new phone, but could no longer afford the bills from her previous one. Jill reached out to the Genacross Service Coordinator at her housing site for assistance. Her phone was broken, and this was causing difficulties, preventing her from contacting family and friends, making appointments, or following up with people. Not having an operable phone was causing Jill a great deal of stress. The service coordinator was able to share information with her about government programs available to help low-income seniors get free phones and discounts on other such items as tablets and laptops. When Jill met with the service coordinator, they discussed three viable options. Working together, they applied for the best option and discovered that Jill could also receive a tablet for \$10. Jill was thrilled! Subsequently, she was approved and received her new phone and tablet a week later. The knowledge and assistance of the housing service coordinators is a valuable resource for the low-income residents who need ways to decrease expenses as the cost of living continues to rise.

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Brian” was a youth for whom Genacross at Home” was providing services when he was living at one of the residential settings operated by Genacross Family & Youth Services. When he graduated from high school and was considered an adult, he remained with Family & Youth Services through its adult program. After Brian’s transition, staff saw a continuing need for occupational and speech therapy services. To facilitate this, Genacross at Home worked with his insurance and the Family & Youth team to complete the needed paperwork and obtain approval of in-home therapy services for Brian as an adult. Genacross at Home continues to serve Brian, and he is thriving in his new home environment.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Ray” entered The Labuhn Center for rehabilitation in January 2021, after having been in the hospital with complications of COVID-19. He was very ill when he came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus, but he was determined to recover by working hard in therapy. Ray called the staff “his team,” and everyone worked hard to help him reach his goal to return home. Ray successfully transitioned home in February, but returned to the Toledo Campus in July. He was still determined to get stronger and recover. He tried until he was no longer able. Ray went into hospice care and passed away two days later. He touched many lives at the Toledo Campus, and several staff members attended visitation at the funeral home. His wife of 46 years said that the individuals who cared for Ray were “angels,” and she thanked them for the loving and compassionate care he had received while at the Toledo Campus.

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.

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WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Samantha” calls the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus her “home away from home.” While she has several complex and chronic medical conditions affecting her lungs, heart, and body, Samantha is still able to live on her own for long stretches of time – an independence she values. Unfortunately, Samantha has also had long stretches of illness, where she needs the support of either a hospital or skilled nursing facility. When she is in need of skilled nursing care, she calls the Wolf Creek Campus. “I feel comfortable here,” she said, adding “I like the people.” Staff members have helped her stabilize and rehabilitate, regaining function and independence. She is also friends with many of the long-term residents, sharing conversation on the veranda, which is Samantha’s favorite place on campus. They have seen her through the good and the bad, including the amputation of both of her legs. When Samantha came to Wolf Creek this time, she had a goal in mind. Coming off yet another long hospitalization, Samantha plans to move down South to be with family. She is hopeful that more support at home will gain her additional stability – not to mention time with nieces and nephews she loves. God is working through the ministry of the Wolf Creek Campus to invigorate Samantha for what lies ahead.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Makayla” was placed in Genacross Family & Youth Services’ Oregon Group Home almost a year ago. Her long-term plan was independent living, although she did have contact with her mom and step-dad. Once placed with Genacross, Makayla and her family participated in visits and therapy. Makayla responded well to the structure and staff support in the group home. Staff members have worked to teach her skills necessary for independent living. Along with her therapist, they also worked with Makayla to teach her coping skills to deal with and overcome her PTSD. Makayla quickly became a leader and mentor to the younger kids in the home. She worked hard to set a good example for them. She has been able to maintain a positive relationship with her mom, while also setting boundaries. She enrolled in Clay High School’s auto mechanics program, which will give her a valuable job skill after graduation. Last month, staff helped her complete job applications and discussed how to prepare for an interview. Makayla was fortunate enough to meet the manager of a fast food restaurant, who had been emancipated from foster care and understood Makayla’s situation. After a quick interview, the manager immediately offered her a job. She has been working for a few weeks while going to school, and Makayla is proud to be earning money to put into a savings account to help her become more independent.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Jim” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus extremely compromised from a recent illness. He had several wounds that had developed due to his inability to get up while in the hospital. He was not eating well, and, throughout his stay, there were several times when his condition changed due to infections. Jim is diabetic and his blood sugar levels fluctuated, which happens when patients develop infections. However, through all of the ups and downs, Jim has always remained positive and vowed to get better. For the majority of his stay, Jim was confined to bed due to his fragile skin condition. However, due to the diligence of the nursing staff and his wound care physician, he is turning the corner. Jim is now getting up in his wheelchair and moving around the facility. His skin is healing, after more than a year of ongoing treatment and care. His goal is to return home to his wife, and staff continues to help him achieve that goal.