



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services*

October 2019

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

When “Sally” arrived at The Labuhn Center on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus, she was unable to walk. In fact, she had not walked in three years. Initially, it was determined that staff would need a mechanical lift to move her. The therapy team immediately began working with Sally to build up her strength and increase her mobility. She has worked hard and has seen steady progress. Currently, Sally can stand with the aid of her walker and is able to walk over 20 feet. She is very excited about her accomplishment and often compliments the nursing and therapy staff for their care and attention to her needs. During her stay on the campus, Sally has loved playing bingo and Wii bowling, and going to church every Sunday in the beautiful chapel. She says that staff has not only met her physical needs, but her emotional and spiritual ones, as well. Recently, Sally had her home evaluation with the therapy team in preparation for her discharge to live with her daughter and grandson. Thanks to the diligence and hard work of The Labuhn Center staff, especially the therapy team, Sally will soon be going home.

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

There has been a growing effort to provide normalcy for the children and teens served by the foster care system. Genacross Family & Youth Services shares that goal. While life in a home with nine other kids who are not biologically related is not typical, staff members strive every day to provide meaningful routines and experiences. At meals, everyone sits together to eat family style. Children are responsible for chores and earn an allowance. One of the young men at the Anthony Wayne Group Home plays football for the local junior high school and attends team practice throughout the week. Others in the home go to watch his games. At the end of the summer, several of the girls from the Genacross Maumee Youth Center took a trip with staff to Cedar Point. For one young woman, this was her first opportunity to ride a roller coaster. Not long after that, 12 youth from the Maumee Youth Center attended a Cleveland Indians baseball game, an outing made possible through a generous donation from the Cleveland Indians Community Impact program. While staff at Family & Youth Services cannot provide a “typical” childhood for the young people they serve, they strive to give them as much normalcy and fun memories as possible.



## GENACROSS AT HOME

“Sue” was caring for her husband when he experienced a downturn in his health and had to go to the hospital and then to a skilled nursing facility. They chose a Genacross Lutheran Services care campus for his rehabilitation needs, and Sue spent a great deal of time visiting her husband there. During the process, she struggled and experienced some health issues of her own. Sue needed assistance and decided to use Genacross at Home for skilled home health services. She was able to recover and regain her strength in her home, while her husband received inpatient care on the Genacross campus. Sue’s recovery went well, and she is back to her normal schedule of visiting her husband. She plans to bring him home in the near future.

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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## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Prior to becoming part of the Genacross family, heart complications had forced “Joan” to reside for two years in an area nursing home. While there, she was assigned to Genacross Lutheran Services through the HOME Choice program. Her Genacross Service Coordinator’s job was to assist in her transition from the nursing home. The Service Coordinator immediately connected Joan with the manager at a Genacross housing community. The application was completed, and Joan was added to the waiting list. Within six months, she moved into her new apartment. The coordinator helped Joan purchase furniture and groceries, as well as set up her apartment on the move-in day. That night, Joan was able to relax and enjoy her new home. In addition to affordable and clean housing, Joan has been linked to PASSPORT in-home services, which provide for a visiting nurse, a home health aide, transportation, adaptive equipment, meal delivery, medication management, and an emergency response pendant. Joan’s coordinator even assists with sorting through mail, following up on doctor bills, and keeping communication lines open with the PASSPORT case manager. Joan emphasized how the service coordination has made her successful transition to community living possible. “Without the help, I’d still be in the nursing home,” she stated. Joan has now been living in her Genacross housing community for nearly two years.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Wilma” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus from a nearby facility. Her family wanted her to experience a better quality of care during her recovery in the Health Center, and they believed that Genacross had a reputation within the community to provide it. Shortly after Wilma’s arrival, the family noticed she was eating meals in the dining room, playing bingo, and participating in other events. This gave Wilma’s family hope – hope that she might be able to return to her home setting and thrive. Staff members grew fond of Wilma during her rehabilitation stay and experienced bittersweet emotions when she was healthy enough to return home. The staff assisted Wilma with a discharge plan that included home health services through Genacross at Home. She would receive in-home therapy services to build on the progress she had made as an inpatient. Shortly after Wilma returned home, during a follow-up phone call, she expressed how thrilled she was to be back in her home. She thanked the staff for all their efforts in helping to reach her goals.



## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Most residents who use the spectrum of living choices at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus begin in independent living and, as they need more assistance, move to a higher level of care. “Ronald,” however, moved through the Wolf Creek Campus living choices in the opposite direction. He came to the Health Center for about a month. During that time, even though he was in a wheelchair, Ronald realized he could still take care of himself. His short-term rehabilitation stay gave him the confidence he needed to decide on his future living arrangements. Ronald toured Wolf Creek’s Creekside independent living and fell in love with the campus even more. He leased a condominium and, while waiting for it to be ready, temporarily moved into an assisted living apartment on campus. Ronald has completed the spectrum – nursing care to assisted living and now independent living – in reverse order from the more “normal” path.

In addition to Ronald’s experience, his wife required nursing care. She moved into the Health Center, with plans of relocating to the condo with Ronald when she was discharged. “Life at the Creek has been very good. Everyone has treated me very well, and I enjoyed getting to know the nurses and aides when my wife and I were in the Health Center,” Ronald commented. One of the key benefits of the Wolf Creek Campus is that it provides different levels of care. If loved ones have a decline (or an improvement) in health, the campus can meet their needs. Ronald and his wife are perfect examples of this in action.