



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



March 2020

TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Mary" arrived at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus after being hospitalized for a fall at home. Her hospital discharge orders recommended skilled therapy. When Mary arrived at The Labuhn Center on the Toledo Campus, she required maximum assistance for bed mobility and transferring, and she was unable to stand on her own. Her needs also included speech therapy, and she had physician orders for a specialized diet. Mary stayed in The Labuhn Center for several weeks, working diligently with the physical, occupational and speech therapists. Nursing staff was also teaching her how to manage her medication properly and track her blood sugar levels. All



of the disciplines helped to educate her family on her care needs. Mary made great strides in her recovery and loved the therapy staff as if they were her own grandchildren. She was successful with homemaking skills and light cooking in therapy, and her diet improved to regular food and thin liquids. When she was nearly ready to return home, her therapists scheduled a home assessment to evaluate any needs for a successful transition. She chose to return home with Genacross at Home health services. Mary did well at home for over a month, but the challenges of living independently were too much for her. Subsequently, she has chosen the Toledo Campus for her long-term care needs. To Mary, this felt right because of the support she had received from staff, and the friendships she had developed during her rehabilitation stay.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

February marked the second anniversary of the Bridges program, which provides services to young adults throughout Ohio who have aged out of foster care. As a provider for the program, Genacross Family & Youth Services has a liaison who provides case management, assistance with independent living skills, and budgeting and other financial support to those in the program. Some clients need less support due to permanent connections they already have in place, while others need more support. "Maria" is one of those individuals with little support outside of the Bridges program. She often calls her Bridges liaison for advice. Her liaison has helped her with budgeting, obtaining financial aid for school, buying a car, and resolving conflicts with her college roommates. Maria is inspired by those who have helped her in the social work field, and she would like to earn a law degree to enable her to help children in foster care. Recently, her liaison helped Maria prepare for her "trip of a lifetime." Maria signed up for a program with the University of Toledo through which she will travel to New York City for a week to help with community outreach programs. She will work in soup kitchen and after-school programs to gain an understanding of community programs in one of the country's biggest cities. She is hoping to learn valuable skills during the week that will help others like herself.

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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GENACROSS AT HOME

“Ed” experienced a bad case of the flu that left him weak and tired. With the help of some members of his congregation, he was able to attend his weekly worship services despite not feeling like his old self. While at church one day, Ed started talking with a Genacross at Home employee about the fatigue and weakness that he was battling. The Genacross at Home employee worked with Ed and his primary care physician to get skilled therapy services to help him regain his strength, mobility and stamina. He will be finished with in-home services in the near future, and he is so happy with the results that he has been coordinating with the Genacross at Home office staff to give a presentation on available home health services at his senior housing complex. Ed is passionate about the great service he received from Genacross at Home – from identifying his needs and working with his health care providers to delivering the care and therapy that helped him fully recover.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Jackie” resides in one of Genacross Lutheran Services’ affordable independent living communities. When she first moved in, Jackie was using a walker at all times, which was very frustrating for her. She really wanted to be able to walk on her own again. A few months after Jackie’s arrival at the housing community, the Genacross Service Coordinator started up an exercise program for the residents. Since then, Jackie has not missed one of the weekly sessions. After only three months of exercise, Jackie is now using a cane instead of a walker to get around. Jackie also shared that she is able to go shopping and get out more. One day, recently, Jackie’s son-in-law took her shopping, and she was thrilled to be able to walk around the whole time without getting too tired. She credits the exercises she has consistently been doing under the guidance of the Service Coordinator for her success and is grateful for the opportunity. A primary goal of Genacross service coordination is to empower residents and promote independence in their daily lives, and this certainly happened for Jackie.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Jane,” is a retired nurse who has been a resident of the Health Center on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus since January. She says that she believes God intervened and charted her path to the Wolf Creek Campus. Upon admission to the campus, she was given therapy goals, but she never thought that she would meet them. However, under the guidance of the therapists and nursing staff, Jane has regained her strength and is now able to walk without a walker. This is something she was unable to do when she arrived. She also can care for herself most of the time, with only minimal assistance. Jane is even excited about being able to make her own bed again. She speaks very highly about the nursing, therapy and dietary staff, and says she is very grateful for their help and kindness during her stay. Jane even writes thank you notes almost daily to the nursing and therapy staff. She will be moving soon from the Health Center into a Wolf Creek assisted living apartment and is very excited to call the campus her home. Jane said that without the help of the Wolf Creek staff and God her health would not have improved as much as it has.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Bert” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after an outpatient procedure. While the procedure itself was not serious, he had several other medical issues that complicated the situation and made an immediate return home impossible. In addition, while Bert’s nature was to keep busy, he had several restrictions to follow to make certain he fully recuperated and did not re-injure himself. Bert was admitted to the Napoleon Campus for rehabilitation, and, over the course of 10 days, he received the appropriate care and therapy to address his health issues. When Bert was ready to go home, he and his family were extremely pleased with the nursing care and effective therapy he had received during his recuperation. Even during short-term stays, the staff is able to make patients and their families feel comfortable and confident about the care and services they receive.