

The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CVII No. 3 SUMMER/FALL 2021

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT RETURNS FOR 2021

Genacross Lutheran Services celebrated a number of its most loyal and hard-working employees at the ministry-wide Staff Appreciation and Recognition event held on August 12 at the Toledo Zoo.

Nearly 140 employees, board members, and their guests had the opportunity to feed the giraffes in the Africa! Exhibit before enjoying dinner and an awards ceremony hosted by The Rev. Logan Scheiwe, member of the Genacross Lutheran Services Board of Directors.

In his opening remarks, President/CEO Rick Marshall acknowledged that the past 18 months have been a real challenge for staff. After defining the word "hero" and applying it to Genacross team members, he introduced the Heroes of Caring awards that were presented later in the evening. (See sidebar on page 3.)

"The individuals recognized as Heroes of Caring this evening have stepped up in amazing ways during the pandemic," Mr. Marshall said. "Over and over again, we counted on them for their knowledge, flexibility, perseverance, and their dedication. These are the individuals who we knew we could always count on."

To start the presentation of awards, Vice President of Human Resources Jeff Schulte first recognized the employees who had reached years of service milestones, were designated Outstanding Employees, or had received a Genacross employee award in 2020. The 2020 recipients were honored individually at their ministry sites when last year's event was canceled due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Moving on to the 2021 awards, numerous employees were honored for their service, ranging from 15 to 45 years. Each

team member received a plaque commemorating his/her years of service.

Years of Service Awards

The following employees were recognized: Mike Haines, 15 years, Elizabeth Davis-Poulson, 20 years, and Jeffrey Przysiecki and Nancy Squires, both 25 years, from Family & Youth Services; Melanie Churchill, 20 years, from Home & Community Based Services; and Robert Chambers, 15 years, and Dr. Jim Dumke and Candace Seger, both 20 years, from Ministry Support.



Toledo Campus Executive Director Cathleen Voyles-Baden (left) and President/CEO Rick Marshall recognize Cindy Muir for 45 years of service.

In addition, these employees were honored: Jane Schnipke, 35 years, from the Napoleon Campus; and Peggy Hmelewski, 15 years, Karen Koberstein, 20 years, Mary Adkins, 35 years, and Cindy Muir, 45 years, from the Toledo Campus. Karena Bello, Nicole McLemore, Victoria Ropp, Marcela Thomas, and Linda Weaver, all 15 years, and Amy

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OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey.

OUR VISION

Through our faith and work, we strive to be a forward-thinking, compassionate organization that improves the lives of current and future generations.

OUR VALUES

Faithfulness to Christ
Equality and Justice
Wholeness of Life
Integrity
Quality of Service
Stewardship of Resources

OUR MINISTRIES

Genacross Lutheran Services
Napoleon Campus
Genacross Lutheran Services
Toledo Campus
Genacross Lutheran Services
Wolf Creek Campus
**Genacross Home & Community
Based Services**
Genacross at Home
**Genacross Family &
Youth Services**
**Genacross Lutheran Services
Foundation**

Connect on Social Media:



A note from RICK MARSHALL

President and CEO



Collaboration Brings Change

One of the things I believe distinguishes faith-inspired non-profit organizations is our willingness to join with one another in collaboration. It is through our collective voices that we raise awareness of the needs of those we serve and advocate on their behalf. It is also through collaboration that we create new and innovative solutions to societal challenges.

Genacross Lutheran Services is proud to join forces with our colleagues through involvement in such associations as Ohio Children's Alliance, LeadingAge, and Lutheran Services in America (LSA). Through our involvement in these organizations, Genacross gains access to expertise and resources that a single organization may not possess.

For several years, Genacross and other members of the Ohio Children's Alliance advocated for state funding for a program to assist youth aging out of foster care. These efforts resulted in the Bridges program, which allows Genacross to come alongside young adults from ages 18-22, as they transition to adulthood and navigate the challenges of becoming independent. As a Bridges provider, our Family & Youth Services has helped over 60 individuals with college enrollment, housing, job searches, and finances, to name just a few services.

LeadingAge, and its local affiliate LeadingAge Ohio, served as the voice of non-profit senior services providers throughout the pandemic. LeadingAge was, and is, active in working with government agencies to advocate on behalf of elders in our communities. It also has provided us with valuable information and education as we navigate these difficult waters. In an environment where everything seemed to change, it was a comfort knowing we had a provider community that was working together to meet the challenges.

LSA, a national network of over 300 Lutheran-affiliated providers, works to bring the power of our network together to create innovative solutions. One of these is Senior Connect, a collaborative effort of 12 LSA members that addresses the social determinants of health among elders and other vulnerable populations. While Genacross has been a leader in implementing Senior Connect through our affordable housing sites, the program was made possible by the efforts of multiple organizations working as one.

Genacross is proud to join with other like-minded organizations to bring about positive change.

Blessings,

GenacrossLutheranServices.org

Employee recognition - continued from front page

Hopkins and Mary Krall, both 20 years, were also recognized from the Wolf Creek Campus.

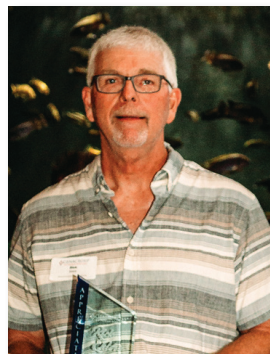
Genacross also recognized six employees for non-milestone years of service beyond 30 years: Janet Westhoven, 33 years, from the Napoleon Campus; and Anne Rocco, 31 years, Lorie Screptock, 32 years, Donna Nelson, 33 years (retired), and Kim Lombardo and Cynthia Wade, both 42 years, from the Toledo Campus.

Genacross Employee Awards

To wrap up the evening, the annual employee awards were presented to several deserving individuals. Wynndobbie Fulton, a Direct Support Professional with Family & Youth Services, received the **Minister to Others** award. "Her commitment to our clients' well-being shows through her attention to detail and willingness to go the extra mile for them," said her nomination. It goes on to say she "always takes into account the feelings of the individuals we serve." She was also praised for her leadership, quality of work, positive attitude and professionalism.



*Minister to Others
Wynndobbie Fulton*



*Servant Leader Rick
Ehlers*

Rick Ehlers, Groundskeeper with Home & Community Based Services, was honored as the **Servant Leader**. He helps maintain several of the Genacross properties year round. Mr. Ehlers' nomination praised his willingness to mow in the heat of the summer and clear snow and spread salt at all hours of the night and day in the cold winter months. "Rick never complains and is always willing to help a co-worker or resident if needed."

The final award of the evening was the **Employee of the Year**, which is presented to the employee who fully embodies the Genacross Mission and Values. This year the award went to two individuals: Sarah Brown, a State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) at the Wolf Creek Campus, and April Saldivar, a STNA at the Toledo Campus.

Ms. Brown's nomination was filled with praise of her as an "exemplary employee who goes above and beyond every chance she gets." When the pandemic hit, Sarah was the first to volunteer to work in the COVID-19 unit. She adapted quickly, making sure the residents got the best care during their stay in isolation. Her nomination praises her initiative, communication, and leadership and calls her a "mentor" for staff and an "advocate" for residents. "Sarah lives out the Genacross Promise daily and encourages her fellow co-workers to do the same."

The nomination for Ms. Saldivar, calls her a "resident favorite" in The Labuhn Center, where she works. "We always get compliments on the care she provides. She takes her time to learn the residents' likes and dislikes." Ms. Saldivar worked primarily in the COVID-19 isolation unit when it was open. Her nomination states: "She provided excellent care to those who were infected. She wasn't afraid as many were. She put the needs of her residents before hers and her family's needs."



*Sarah Brown shares
Employee of the Year
with April Saldivar
(not pictured).*

Congratulations to all the members of the Genacross family recognized during the evening's festivities.

2021 Heroes of Caring

Family & Youth Services

Mesherry Cooks
Allison Fox
Michel'Le Frazier
Chloe Jackson

Terry Jackson
Jeremy Killam
Alisha Royster

Genacross at Home

Ronda Campbell

Kristin Lillich

Home & Community Based Services

Renee Adams
Amber Burnett
Emite Davis

Cathie Elwood
Brenda Peiffer
Tina Sherer

Napoleon Campus

Tania Beatty
Kelsey Cameron
Chandra Cooper
Tim Lyons

Rebecca Newell
Jane Schnipke
Jill Spengler
Janet Westhoven

Toledo Campus

Mary Adkins
Kristina Alsip
Diane Cline
Peggy Hmelewski
Karen Koberstein

Shawn Oberhouse
Cathleen Voyles- Baden
April Washington
Casey Wylie-Knight

Wolf Creek Campus

Melanie Aquino
James Cole III
Elijah Dia
Nuyit Engelbert

Cynthia Faircloth
Karen Hartfield
Carrie Watkins
Linda Weaver

EQUALITY AND JUSTICE: DOING THE RIGHT THING

The Core Values of Genacross Lutheran Services describe how everyone connected to the organization is called to work together to fulfill its mission of providing compassionate care and services to individuals and their families. During 2021, Genacross has been focusing on its second value, "Equality and Justice." An article in the last issue looked at "Equality," the first half of the value, as an expression of Jesus' message that even in their difference, each and every individual is loved equally by our Creator.

Now, turning to this value's second part, someone might ask, "What does Justice have to do with Genacross' mission, and how does it fulfill the foundational 'Faithfulness to Christ' value? "In simple terms, "Justice" is doing what is right, and, when it is linked as a Core Value with 'Equality,' its meaning for Genacross is clear," said Dr. Jim Dumke, Vice President for Mission Integration.

"If we truly believe that every person, including ourselves, has been made and is loved by our Creator, it only makes sense that the right thing to do is treat each other in a just and loving manner," he added. "This is the



ultimate expression of the Christ who said, 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you' (John 15:12)."

"This value challenges employees to be the instruments of God's redeeming love, both for those in our care as well as for all with whom we serve; or in simple terms, for each other," Dr. Dumke explained. "He is calling us to live out the Justice of his love for all."

Genacross at Home and Senior Options announce partnership

Genacross Lutheran Services has engaged Senior Options, LLC, a subsidiary of Westminster-Canterbury on Chesapeake Bay, to support its home health services in northwest Ohio. Senior Options will provide operational support for Genacross at Home health care, as well as facilitate the addition of hospice care to the home and community-based services line.



"We are excited to start this partnership," said Amanda Schroeder, Vice President of Home & Community Based Services. "It will give us consistency and the bandwidth to continue expanding our home health care, and help us streamline our clinical operations and financial and accounting services, as well as achieve high-quality outcomes."

"Genacross is very eager to grow our home and community-based services and is very impressed with the level of expertise Senior Options brings to this partnership," said Rick Marshall, President/CEO of Genacross Lutheran Services. "With Senior Options' support, we should be able to operate an effective business model that will benefit Genacross and the individuals we serve."

Genacross at Home has been providing skilled nursing and therapy services in northwest Ohio homes since 2014. Senior Options provides advisory services and operational support to nonprofit senior living organizations wishing to serve seniors beyond the walls of their campuses.

For more information about the services offered by Genacross at Home, please call 419.724.1827.

SENIOR CENTER REOPENS AT LUTHER MEADOW

After being closed since March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Gibsonburg Senior Center at Luther Meadow senior community reopened on August 2. The Senior Center is open Monday through Friday to community members and Luther Meadow residents for lunch and a variety of activities.



Senior Center participants (left to right) Carol Widman, Connie Wymer, and Veronica Vera gather for socializing in the Luther Meadow community room.

On the day it reopened, participants attended a Meet & Greet for Polly Dierksheide, the new Site Supervisor. At the event, which offered donuts and coffee, she shared

her excitement over working at the center and talked to members about some of her ideas and expectations.

The Senior Center will be operating under the state's guidelines for reopening, with attendees having their temperature's taken and answering screening questions upon arrival. The center provides daily activities that include stretching, bingo and other games, trivia questions, educational programs, and monthly birthday celebrations.

Luther Meadow staff members are happy to welcome back the chatter and laughter that travels down the hall when the Senior Center is open. Participants are also excited to be able to gather together once again.

According to Luther Meadow Resident Susan Bolen, she is "looking forward to the health checks" that the center offered in the past. "I am so happy it is back open!" added Carol Widman, another resident. Connie Wymer, her longtime friend who does not live at Luther Meadow, shared that "I have been coming here for the last two years and even helped volunteer in the kitchen. It's a good time. We have a lot of fun and a lot of laughs."

The Senior Center has operated at Luther Meadow since 2003. Currently, the center is open Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 419.637.7947.

Construction of Adrian group home nears completion



Finishing work continues at the new group home in Adrian, Michigan, which will serve up to 10 youth in care at one time. The kitchen (left) is taking shape, while the exterior awaits landscaping. The first youth are scheduled to be placed in early October.



WHERE THERE'S A WILL... THERE'S A WAY TO HELP

One of the easiest ways to help Genacross Lutheran Services is through a gift in a will. By doing so, the donor becomes a member of the Johannes Doerfler Society. This group of donors is named after the organization's founder, whose vision of helping others and doing God's work has lived on for over 160 years.

Genacross gives away over \$5 million each year for those who cannot afford the cost of care, and the organization has never turned out anyone due to the inability to pay. By making a provision in a will or estate plan,* donors can join others in making sure that Rev. Doerfler's vision continues to meet the needs of today's - and tomorrow's - residents and care recipients.

Leaving a legacy is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Name Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation as the recipient of a bequest in your will.

Bequests can be a flat dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. They can be designated for the ministry or program of your choice, or they can be undesignated for Genacross to use where most needed. The Foundation staff can review the available funds with you at any time. The following information must be included with your bequest:

- Legal name of the organization: LHS Foundation, Inc. dba Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, Inc.
- Organization address: 2021 N. McCord Rd, Toledo, OH 43615
- Tax ID number of the organization: 34-1678593

2. Let the Foundation know you have made a provision in your will.

Fill out our Legacy Reply form, and the Foundation will list you as a member of the Johannes Doerfler Society. You will also be invited to special informational sessions to learn about what Genacross is doing to help those in need. Want to remain anonymous? Not a problem, just let us know and your name will not be published.

3. Rest better knowing your philanthropic wishes will be honored.

The job of the Foundation's staff is to ensure donor intent is honored in perpetuity. We will monitor your gift funds to be sure they are used for your specified purpose.



Rick Marshall (standing left) and Michael George look on as the Rev. Keith Hunsinger (seated left) and David Polzin sign paperwork to leave legacy gifts.

Any questions can be directed to Michael George, Executive Director of the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, at 419.861.4964 or MiGeorge@Genacross.org.

*Please consult an attorney or financial advisor to be sure this program fits your needs.

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

April 1 - June 30, 2021

Anonymous	Jane Claussen
Beverly Apel	Angela Clay
Rev. Dr. & Mrs.	Diane Cline
Gerald Bauer	Robert &
Miriam & Ted Benner	Darlene Cook
Dr. Bonnie Berger	James Cordy
Jason Beyer	Tamara
Patricia Blankenship	Dawson-Kynard
Hilde Boes	Fred Doering
Terry Bossert	Joyce Douglas
Chuck & Karen Botzko	Alan & Mary Ann
Stephen & Deborah	Draves
Bowsher	Dr. Jim & Dawn
Kari Bucher	Dumke
Christina Burnette	Glenn Geldien
Elizabeth Cannon	Donna Genzman
	Michael A. George

Don & Sue Gerke
Elaine Gruetter
Rev. Richard &
Christine Habrecht
Victoria &
Demetrius Harris
Rosella Helberg
Herbert &
Pat Hoehing
Sue Hoellrich
Pastor Keith &
Sue Hunsinger
Jim & Joan Keeler
Linden Kuhn
Rev. & Mrs. Steve Lutz
Beverly Mackey
Rick & Janet Marshall
Kathy & Kevin Martin
Carol L. Meuser

Patty Michaelis
Melanie Moore
Weldon Mueller
Paul Nelson
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth
Nungester
Loren & Judy
Pfaffenberger
Rev. Dr. Tim & Mrs.
Kate Philabaum
Mrs. Launita Plassman
John & Laura Precht
Rev. David Proctor
Jeff & Sharon
Przysiecki
Dave & Pam Roberts
Jon Russell
Mary Satterfield
Jeff & Lorinda Schalk

Amanda Schroeder
Victor Schuerman
Jeff & Paige Schulte
Jane Sharp
Scott Slee
Joan L. Smith
Richard N. Snyder
Gilbert & Dona
Sonnenberg
Ed & Sue Stehulak
Charitable Fund
Robert & Janis Stein
Carol Taylor
Linda Weaver
Timothy Weirich
Sharon Ann Wheeler
Darlene Williams
Katie & Jay Zawisza

IN MEMORY OF

April 1 - June 30, 2021

Lawrence & Anna Avers
by Dale Avers

My beloved Andy by
Phyllis Ballas

Jean Brentlinger by
Irene Glore

Nancy Brushhaber by
Jean Winkelman

LeRoy & Nellie Carter,
parents of Marian,
Winnie & Elaine by
Elaine Gladieux

Vicky Chambers by
Don & Karen Holmes

My Mom & Dad - Fred
& Marge Dais by
William Fred Dais, Ed.S.

Departed loved ones
by Roland & Marilyn
Henderson

Faye Druckenmiller by
John & Diane Avers

Gayle Duty by
Sandra Duty

Irene N. Ewing by
Mr. Charles A. Ewing

Rita & Pete Fisher by
Mary Perkins

Mary Lou Frysinger by
Corvin & Kendall Kruse,
Paul & Amanda Kruse,
Paul & Tonya Newkirk

Mary Lou Gabel by
Ronald Gabel

Lawrence & Ruby
Gerken by Rick &
Linda Hogrefe

Lois Klug, former
resident of Luther Haus
by Jean Winkelman

Keith R. Kruse by Mr. &
Mrs. William E. Nelson

Irene Liechty by
Nick & Sylvia Battaglia,
Dorothy Rettig, Mikolaj
Wlasiuk

Rodrigo "Roy"
Martinez Sr. by
Jean Winkelman

Mark J. McCandless
by Michael & Beverly
Amstutz

Robert Miller by
Carol & Andy Small

Alma Mueller by
Lynn & Joyce Oلمان

Mary Mueller, my wife
by Weldon Mueller

My family by
Sharon Ann Wheeler

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nissen
by Jim & Rachel Nissen

Our family members by
Jane & Jack Comune

Gene Patterson by
Irene Glore

My parents, Rev.
George & Mrs. Emma
Plamann by
Paul Plamann

Emma Poulson by
Don Poulson

Mary K. Roberts by
Dean Roberts

Gusta & Else Roll by
Associated Eye Physicians
& Surgeons, P.C.

Tom Rosebrock, my son
by Marilyn Rosebrock

Dan Schmidt by
Mary Schimming

George & Thelma
Schober by Mr. Michael
Sibbersen

My husband, Harvey E.
Sterling Jr. by
Helen Sterling

Harold Twaddle by
Lester & Arlene Ramler

John & Hazel
Warrington by Steve &
Kathy Warrington

Rev. Tom Wilson by
Mrs. Frances Wilson

Larry Witt by
Margaret Witt

Frances Zachrich by
Cheryl Daman

IN HONOR OF

April 1 - June 30, 2021

All Veterans and POWs by Glenn Geldien

Family by Joyce Douglas

Grandchildren by Nancy Hardin

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Harlow's 55th wedding
anniversary by St. John's WELCA, Oak Harbor

The Holy Spirit who guides us by John Weislmeier

If we have failed to list your name or
have listed it incorrectly,
please accept our apologies
and contact Anne at 419.861.4965
to correct our records.

ORGANIZATIONAL DONATIONS

April 1 - June 30, 2021

AmazonSmile Foundation, Seattle, WA
Benevity Community Impact Fund, Safety Harbor, FL
CWS Environmental, Perrysburg
The Henry County Bank, Napoleon
Kroger Community Rewards, Columbus
Medical Mutual, Rossford
Eagle's Rest Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable
Foundation, Concord, NH
Prelude Services, Mechanicsburg, PA
Select Sanitation, Swanton
Thrivent, Appleton, WI
Thrivent - YourCause, Plano, TX
TOPS #1648, Erie, MI

CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS

April 1 - June 30, 2021

St. Martin, Archbold
St. Paul, Blissfield, MI
Christ, Bowling Green
St. Paul, Bowling Green
St. James, Bradner
Bethlehem, Defiance
(Okolona)
St. Paul, Defiance

St. Mark, Fremont
Zion, Gibsonburg
St. Matthew, Lima
Salem Grace United
ELCA, Luckey
St. Peter Evangelical,
Norwalk
St. John, Oak Harbor

St. Michael,
Ottawa Lake, MI
Bethlehem, Pemberville
Church of the Master,
Perrysburg
Zoar, Perrysburg
Resurrection,
Port Clinton
St. John, Port Clinton

St. John's, Stony Ridge
St. Paul, Sulphur Springs
Olivet, Sylvania
St. Luke's,
Temperance, MI
First St. John, Toledo
Memorial, Toledo
Messiah, Toledo
Zion, Waterville
Solomon, Woodville

NON-CASH

April 1 - June 30, 2021

Annie Apel
Rosemary Brim
Lois Manion
Marilyn Ulrich

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Requirements Notice

Genacross Lutheran Services complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

English: ATTENTION: If you speak [insert language], language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-888-546-7745

(TTY: 1-888-546-7745).

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-546-7745 (TTY: 1-888-546-7745).

Chinese: 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-888-546-7745 (TTY: 1-888-546-7745)

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P: 419.861.4990

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GIFT SHOP AT TOLEDO CAMPUS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

The Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus recently opened its gift shop, which had been closed since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the shop is open 12:30-4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.



*Volunteer Donna Scott
welcomes Toledo
Campus residents and
visitors to the gift shop.*



"Reconnecting and recruiting volunteers to work in the gift shop has been a real challenge," said Diane Cline, Director of Activity/Volunteer Services. "Help did come as three past volunteers returned and a new volunteer started."

The new volunteer is a Toledo Campus resident, Donna Scott. She has been in the Genacross family for many years, working as an Occupational Therapist before becoming a resident. "Donna's can-do attitude has been amazing to watch as she has encountered and overcome many health challenges in recent years," Ms. Cline stated.

Volunteer Esther Bell is manager and buyer for the spacious shop, which is operated by volunteers and contains many gift, personal care, and food items. "Donna is amazing! She is very interactive with everyone who visits the gift shop," she said.

The gift shop is looking for more volunteers so hours can be expanded. Anyone who would like more information or to volunteer, please contact Diane Cline at 419.724.1738.



Connect with Genacross Lutheran Services on social media. We are now on Facebook and LinkedIn, providing new ways you can learn about, share, and comment on the latest Genacross news and events.

GenacrossLutheranServices.org