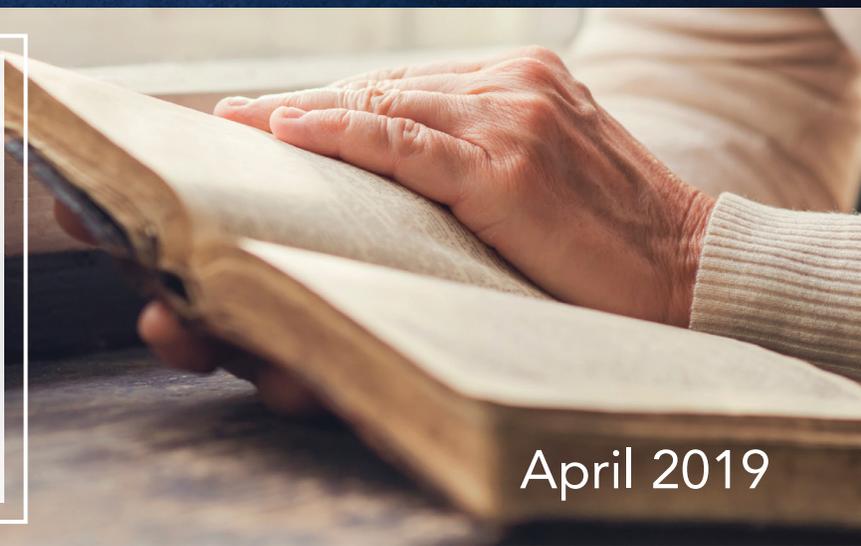




# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services*



April 2019

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Jeffrey” has never known his biological family. His only family has been his foster mom, Mary, and the other foster children she has been raising. When Jeffrey’s behaviors began to escalate, and his mental health needs became more intense, Mary finally made the tough decision that she could not keep Jeffrey in her home. His impulsivity often led to difficult behaviors, such as damaging property and becoming physically aggressive. Jeffrey was placed at the Wynn Group Home, where he was slow to adapt to the structure. Although he rarely became physically aggressive, he would often run away from the group, only to be found a short time later down the street or at the park. Eventually, Jeffrey settled into the program and understood that he could earn opportunities if he followed the structure.

Jeffrey became a hard worker and would often volunteer to work around the group home to complete extra cleaning, gardening and other yard work. Although he participated well in individual therapy, Jeffrey struggled in group therapy. He was, however, able to transition to Clay High School where he was well liked and successful. Meanwhile, Jeffrey and Mary participated in the Partners in Treatment weekends, where they worked on goals that would enable him to return home. Mary’s commitment rivaled that of any other parent involved in the program. In March, Jeffrey was able to return to Mary’s home, where he will continue to work toward his goals of graduating from high school and making good decisions, even in times of emotional distress.



## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Sally” has lived at Creekside independent living on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for many years. She has maintained her independence and has enjoyed living in a beautiful condominium with a view. She is very social and, three to four times a week, walks over to Wolf Creek’s assisted living and care center to mingle with the residents who live there. Occasionally, she enjoys lunch or dinner with them as well. She also knows nearly every staff member. Recently, Sally’s family reached out to assisted living management to inquire about a possible transition from Creekside. Sally was reluctant to inquire about moving for fear she would lose her independence. Staff assured her that she could still come and go as she pleases in assisted living, and, since she already knows most everyone, it should be an easy transition. After viewing an apartment, Sally took a few days to think about it. Soon, she was asking about the dimensions of the apartment’s walls and other questions. Staff members handled her reluctance and hesitation with patience, and they are thrilled that she is excited about her decision to move into assisted living. The Wolf Creek Campus, as all Genacross care campuses, strives to help residents age in place, offering a continuum of care that meets their changing needs.

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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## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Adam” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus just over a year ago. His three children visited often. They were concerned about their father’s wellbeing and worried about his experiencing depression since his wife had recently lost her battle with cancer. They reached out to the Napoleon team and expressed their concerns. Initially, the staff tried to get Adam to participate in worship services, but he did not want to leave his room. As staff members talked more with Adam, they discovered that he was missing his wife and asked him how they could help. In response, he requested a radio for his room and asked if every morning someone could play a particular CD he owned. Adam said that it reminded him of the days when he and his wife slow danced at home. After just a week of this, Adam asked to attend a worship service. Staff members visit Adam daily for his morning music and often get to hear a story or two of the great times he and his wife shared.

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Genacross Adult Day Center participant “Lisa” enjoyed attending the day center five days a week. She loved the crafts and the socialization she experienced with her fellow participants. Lisa was always talking about the new addition to her family – her first great grandchild. Her face lit up every time she talked about the baby. In addition, Lisa frequently encouraged other participants when they seemed to be having a bad day. Lisa lived with her daughter, but due to increased medical complications and her daughter working full time, she needed to transition to a long-term care facility. The Adult Day Center Nurse Manager educated Lisa and her daughter about the Genacross care campuses. The daughter had already made arrangements with another facility, but within a few weeks, called the Nurse Manager and told her that the care Lisa was receiving elsewhere was not acceptable. Lisa’s daughter thanked the Nurse Manager for the Genacross information and called back later to say Lisa is now living at one of the Genacross care campuses. She could not be more pleased. She also shared that Lisa specifically asked about the Nurse Manager and the day center driver. While she is happy in her new home, Lisa said that she misses everyone at the center very much.



## GENACROSS AT HOME

Genacross at Home had been providing skilled home health services to “Bill” until he needed permanent nursing care placement because his wife “Sue” could no longer take care of him at home. Bill and Sue had been very pleased with the Genacross at Home staff’s care, so they decided to admit him to a Genacross campus for his long-term care services. One day, when Sue was leaving home to go visit Bill, she slipped, fell, and needed to have surgery. After her surgery, Sue required home health services and reached out to Genacross at Home. Sue is currently independent and doing very well, but she needs a follow-up surgery and has stated that she will be utilizing Genacross for any rehab-related services she may need in the future.

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Ginny” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus following complications from a fall at home. When she arrived, she had a fractured pelvic bone but was still able to begin therapy. She was also experiencing a great deal of anxiety. During her stay on the Toledo Campus, Ginny worked hard in therapy. “The therapy staff has turned my life around, and I’m so glad I can go back home,” she said. Her husband mentioned that the nursing staff had shown true compassion even in high-stress situations. “The nurses were very kind and compassionate during her stay at Genacross,” he explained. Soon Ginny will be going home after several months of rehabilitation on the campus. She is looking forward to a healthier lifestyle that she has learned about from the Genacross staff. They also worked with her on how to be safer in her home. Therapy has performed a home assessment, evaluating her bedroom, bathroom, and common areas and recommending equipment to ensure her safety. Ginny feels confident she will have a successful return home.