



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*

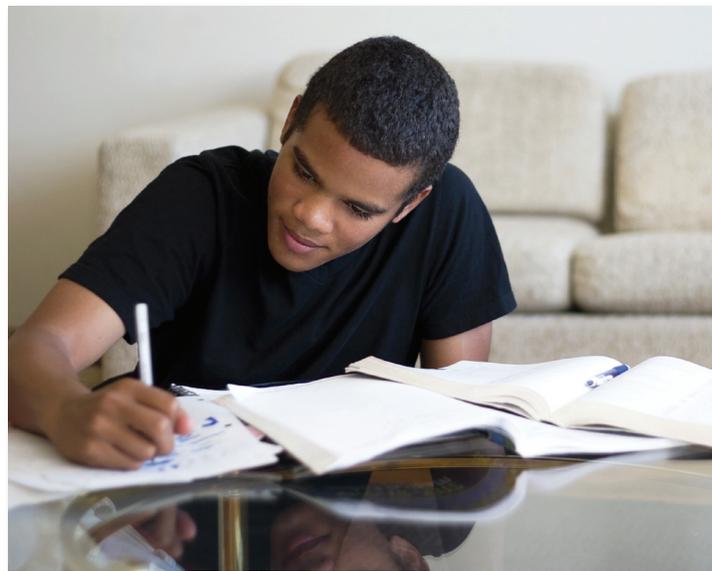


February 2019

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Calvin” lived with his mother and older sister. He was receiving case management services through Catholic Charities. He often skipped school, just refusing to go and forcing his sister to stay home with him so that his mother was able to work. Calvin displayed aggressive and physically destructive behaviors. He was impulsive, inattentive, hyperactive, and threatened harm to himself and others without apparent triggers. Calvin’s anger was often unpredictable and unprovoked. After trying to smother his mother in her sleep, it was decided that he needed out-of-home care.

Calvin was placed at the Genacross Maumee Youth Center, where he received both individual and family therapy. Once he began to stabilize, Calvin was able to admit that he had been abused by a family friend. He had never reported this to his mother, but, instead, had acted out violently toward others. After about a year of participating in therapy, attending Partners in Treatment family weekends, and working with staff on incorporating coping skills into his life, Calvin and his family were ready to prepare for their reunification. Just before Christmas, Calvin was reunited with his mother and sister. He has since called his therapist to report that things were going well. He was looking forward to a fresh start at his new school, where he would work as hard as he did when he was living at the Maumee Youth Center.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Just over a year ago, “Terry” was in a really bad truck accident that crushed his hip. Due to multiple reconstructive surgeries, his only option was to be placed in a nursing facility for his recovery. It was not where Terry wanted to be, since he is younger than most nursing home residents. Recently, Genacross Housing & Community Services received a referral for Terry through the HOME Choice program to help him transition from the facility setting. The Service Coordinator assigned to his case worked diligently to get Terry successfully moved back into the community. He did not have a large monthly income, but with the Service Coordinator’s assistance, he was approved for low-income housing, and a ground-floor apartment with limited steps was secured to meet Terry’s physical needs. In addition, the Service Coordinator was also able to get funds approved through Recovery Requires a Community to cover past-due utility bills and help cover the cost of furniture for his new home. She also assisted with purchasing furniture, household goods and groceries. Terry’s family has been supportive and helped him on move-in day with getting furniture arranged and items put away. Terry is grateful and thrilled to be living on his own again.

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

“Sandra” has been on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for many years, first as a family member and now as a resident. Initially, she was the caregiver for her ex-husband, Dennis, when he resided in assisted living. She and her little Chihuahua, Precious, also volunteered in the Village Store. After being involved for so many years, observing the care and compassion that Dennis received from staff, and being very familiar with the campus and its residents, Sandra has now made assisted living on the Wolf Creek Campus her new home. She enjoys not having the responsibilities of caring for a big house, yet still driving and being very independent in her apartment. Sandra comes and goes as she pleases, but she knows that she is being checked on multiple times a day in her home. Her worries of falling and being left alone are gone. She has made many friends on campus, still volunteers in the Village Store, and assists with worship services. Sandra truly enjoys living in her new home.

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Jim” is single and had an accident that left him with a wound that was not healing. He has an involved family who wanted to get him home and help him recover. Jim was referred to Genacross at Home for skilled nursing services to provide wound care. The Genacross at Home nurse has been working with Jim and his family to treat his wound. There have been some setbacks, but Jim and his family continue to stay positive and be very involved in his care. Members of his family come over multiple times a day to reposition him and stimulate healing. They are also becoming more comfortable with the wound care the nurse is teaching them. The home health nurse will continue to stay involved in Jim’s care, but the family has been a great help in treatments and is also keeping Jim’s spirits up during his recovery.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Arlene” is a short-term resident on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. She was admitted from the hospital and needed therapy services to regain her strength in order to live independently again. Arlene was hesitant after admission and did not want to leave her room or participate in therapy treatments. While staff respected Arlene’s wishes and gave her space for a few days, they continued to encourage and remind her of the importance of treatments. One day Arlene took a big step and agreed to head down to the therapy gym. Two weeks later she was a whole new woman – very active with her treatments and recovering at a rapid pace. Not only does she now enjoy her therapy treatments, but she participates in almost every activity offered on the campus. Her favorite activities are the ones that “pamper” her: Arlene never misses an opportunity to get her nails painted or her hand/arms massaged by the wonderful activities staff. She continues to work hard during therapy in the mornings and enjoys being pampered and playing bingo in the afternoons. Staff members truly believe she just needed encouragement and reassurance that they could enhance her life and enable her to recover successfully.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

When “Martha” became ill and went to the hospital, she experienced generalized weakness and problems with balance. Since she was already an assisted living resident on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus, she decided to come to The Labuhn Center for her rehabilitation. Martha was expected to do well in therapy, since one of her favorite campus activities was group exercise. The therapy staff worked diligently with Martha and found her to be highly motivated. In fact, within two weeks Martha was able to return to her assisted living apartment. She credits the therapy staff for her quick recovery. She said they explained everything as they worked together and were all very positive. There is no doubt, though, that Martha’s attitude contributed to her speedy recovery. “I’d only be hurting myself if I didn’t work hard in therapy,” she said. Martha is back in her apartment and happy to be back to her regular routine.