



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*

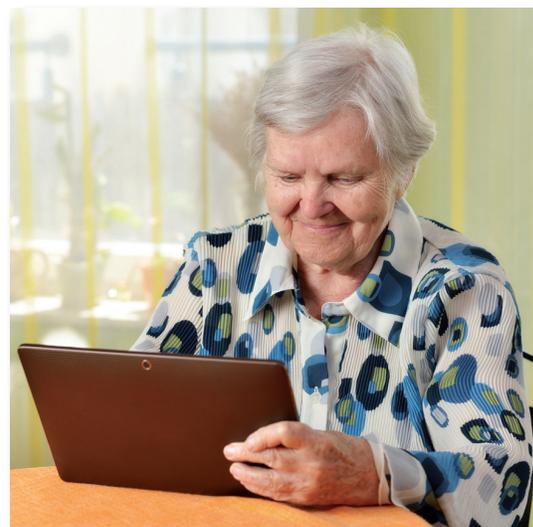
March 2019

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“John” was found unresponsive at home by his wife when she returned from an afternoon shopping trip. After entering the hospital that day, doctors informed her that John had suffered a stroke. He spent three weeks in intensive care and a stroke unit. Near the end of his stay, a hospital discharge planner went over rehab facility options with the couple. John could not speak so his wife was his voice. She chose the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Upon admission, Wolf Creek staff assessed John and knew they would need to be innovative with communication. In addition to having slurred speech, he was unable to use his left leg and arm. He was also unable to take any steps or transfer on his own. Leg and arm exercises started on day one, along with playing charades to enable staff to determine his needs. John’s wife diligently visited every day, and the therapy staff taught her how to assist her husband with exercises. John has progressed very well. He is currently receiving physical, occupational, and speech therapy five times a week. He can now transfer on his own and walk up to 15 feet. John states daily that his goal is to walk out of rehabilitation center one day and return home!

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Rita” is a long-term care resident who has lived on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years. Recently, staff held a care conference for Rita. Her daughter, who lives out of town, calls in for these meetings. Everyone could see Rita’s eyes light up when she heard her daughter’s voice. During this particular care meeting, Rita described how she had not been feeling up to joining in activities. After the meeting, a staff member spoke with Rita and explored positive avenues to encourage her to participate in activities again. Rita mentioned missing her family. The staff member told her how technology today allows people to see one another while talking. With her consent, the staff member retrieved a Genacross iPad and called her daughter via FaceTime. Rita was able to talk to her daughter and see her face during their conversation. Now, they FaceTime weekly, and Rita is back to participating in activities on the campus.



GENACROSS AT HOME

“David” has had medical issues for several years and recently needed surgery. While in the hospital, the Genacross hospital liaison visited with David and discussed our Genacross at Home health services. He chose to have Genacross at Home provide therapy after his surgery. David is recovering well in the comfort of his own home and has been receiving therapy services for nearly 60 days. Soon, Genacross at Home staff will be recertifying him for additional services to continue his recovery. While he is steadily recovering, David still needs extra time with the therapists to gain strength so he can move about his home safely.

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.

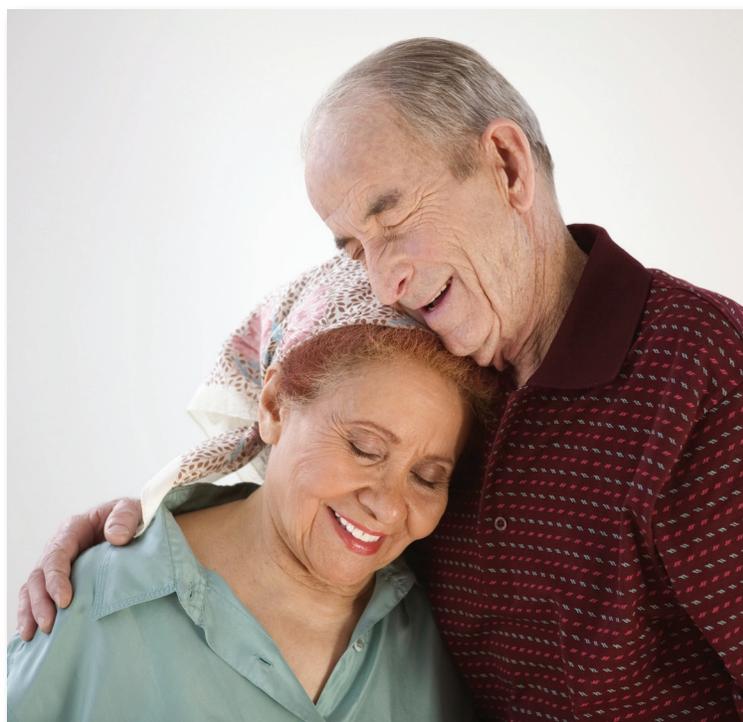
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HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Fran” is in her 60s and is living with Parkinson’s disease. She becomes unsteady at times due to this condition. Last summer, when she was visiting her daughter, she fell off the deck of her daughter’s house, sustaining a concussion and head injury. Fran has been in a nursing home since then, but has managed to keep a positive and optimistic attitude. She has continued to work hard in therapy in order to gain a steady gait and increase her strength, as well as learn how to manage her diabetes. Fran’s family has been very supportive through this difficult phase of her life. With the assistance of the Genacross Service Coordinator assigned to her through the HOME Choice program, Fran will soon be moving into an assisted living apartment. In addition, HOME Choice funds helped her purchase a new bed, recliner, loveseat, and the household goods she will need to start this new chapter in her life. Fran is forever grateful to the Service Coordinator for assisting her to find her new home and buy many of the items she needs to regain a significant portion of her independence.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Geneva” was admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus due to complications of kidney failure. She came to the campus with anxiety, because her husband was also in the hospital, and she did not know where he would go for his recovery. Just a few days after her arrival, Geneva’s husband was admitted to the Toledo Campus. The couple was placed in the same unit, and this allowed them the time to catch up after the weeks they had spent apart. During their stay on the Toledo Campus, Geneva and her husband both worked hard in therapy. “The therapy staff has turned our lives around, and we can’t wait to go home,” Geneva said. Her husband mentioned that the nursing staff shows true compassion even in high stress situations. “The nurses knew just what to do for every resident as I observed during my stay at Genacross,” he said. The couple will be discharged after a lengthy stay and are looking forward to a healthy lifestyle that the staff has helped them learn. According to Geneva, “We’ve come a long way together, and we won’t stop here!”



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

February marked the first anniversary of the Bridges program, which provides services to young adults who have aged out of foster care throughout Ohio. As a Bridges provider, Genacross Family & Youth Services has had 15 referrals in the first year. Of those 15 young adults, 10 have received Bridges services. In addition to working on budgeting, vocational, and independent living skills, the Bridges program has helped with living expenses for these individuals. In this first year, Family & Youth Services helped a young mom find stable housing and furnish her new home. This same young woman enrolled in a STNA program so that she would be able to find employment prior to aging out of the Bridges program. Three other individuals are students at the University of Toledo. They received financial assistance with purchasing text books, paying rent, and covering room and board costs. Two other clients were assisted in finding apartments. Another young lady is living in a pre-adoptive home and attending a vocational school. Staff is also working with her on budgeting and life skills. Just recently, one of the young adults called her Bridges worker because her grandfather had passed away and she didn’t feel she had anyone else to talk to about it. Over the course of the past year, the Bridges program has seen a wide variety of needs in the young adults who are being served, but it truly comes down to the fact that these young adults aging out of foster care are getting the support they need to be successful as they move forward.

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