



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



November 2021

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Veterans Day on November 11 was a special day of celebration at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. The Napoleon Campus recognized two residents who had served honorably during WWII and Korea in the U.S Army. As the chaplain placed a pin on their lapels, he said: "We the people of the United States of America honor you this day by saying 'thank you' for your honorable service. Your sacrifice is still bearing its good fruit even to this day. Because of you, we still are the land of the free and the home of the brave. Once again, thank you, and may God give you great pride and joy in what you have done for our country." Then the veterans enjoyed a big steak dinner with all the trimmings. Charles, a 96-year-old veteran, was a paratrooper stationed in the South Pacific and was often one of the first on the ground. "It was tough," Charles stated. "I had to make many hard decisions. I have carried those painful experiences with me all my life. You can never forget them as long as you live." Like the Napoleon Campus, many Genacross ministries took the time to honor those who have served their country.

GENACROSS AT HOME

"Mae" was injured in an unfortunate accident in which she was struck by a car. After she received short-term rehabilitation services at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus, Mae went home with services through Genacross at Home, which she subsequently refused. A few weeks later, she contacted the therapy team at the Napoleon Campus and explained the difficulties she was having recuperating at home. Once again, this time with Mae's blessing, skilled home health services were arranged for her through Genacross at Home. She is receiving physical therapy, which is helping her regain strength and balance. Occupational therapy is focusing on Mae's fine motor skills. As a team, the Genacross at Home therapists are enabling Mae to return to pre-accident function levels and to embrace a more normal life.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Frank" is in his 40s and recently suffered a stroke. To say that it was an unexpected medical incident would be an understatement. He struggled with the physical and mental effects of the stroke and worried about its long-term ramifications. When Frank arrived at The Labuhn Center on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus, he could not talk or communicate, and he had trouble with walking and such daily living activities as eating, bathing and dressing. During his stay, he worked diligently with the therapy team to build up his strength and re-learn how to care for himself. His nurses and aides made sure his daily care needs were met and reinforced the skills he was working on in therapy. Speech therapy worked with him on swallowing and learning to speak again. After weeks of therapy and care, Frank was able to return home, speaking in full sentences and able, for the most part, to care for himself. As he continues through the challenges of his recovery, Frank is grateful for all the help he received from the staff members at The Labuhn Center.

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FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

During group therapy, one of the dedicated therapists at Family & Youth Services often works with the youth at the Wynn, Oregon, and East Toledo group homes on being thankful, showing generosity, and spreading love. Prior to the onset of COVID-19, one of the ways she did this was through intergenerational activities with residents at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus. With COVID-19 precautions in place, these lessons looked a little different; however, the youth did not want to stop spreading love and kindness. They created a plan for the fall. One part of the plan began with the students searching for pinecones. They then painted them and added glitter to make them a little brighter. Then the students cut tissue paper into small pieces and used a decoupage method to decorate mason jars to look like stained glass. When they were done, they put everything together to create 24 centerpieces for the residents' dining tables at the Toledo Campus. Although the students were not able to go in the building, they wanted to participate, so they sat outside in the vans and watched Family & Youth staff deliver them to Toledo Campus staff. While it may seem to the residents that the children had done something nice for them, what they may not have realized is that the youth are learning lessons in empathy, kindness, and giving.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

"Judy" is a 92-year-old resident at Genacross' Luther Oaks senior community in Norwalk, Ohio. She has numerous medical issues that were creating complications. The Service Coordinator working at Luther Oaks had noticed a marked increase in shortness of breath lately with Judy and was very concerned about her deteriorating health. The coordinator, who had been encouraging Judy to go to the emergency room for a while, was finally able to convince her to go. The hospital immediately admitted Judy, began draining fluid, and said she had congestive heart failure. While in the hospital, Judy expressed concern about her care and medications. The Service Coordinator was able to speak on Judy's behalf with contacts at the hospital and resolve the issues. Judy began to improve and was eventually able to return home with home health services that included skilled nursing care, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. The Genacross Service Coordinator played an important part in Judy's recovery, advocating on behalf of Judy's needs. Service coordination, which is offered at all Genacross senior housing locations, is based on the recognition that a trusting and empowering relationship between the service coordinators and residents is essential to expedite services and to restore or maintain the resident's independence to the fullest extent possible.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Samuel" arrived at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus profoundly weak after having battled COVID-19. His sons insisted that their father, who is in his mid-80's, had been active until recently. While Samuel had recovered from the virus, the weakness remained. He was heavily dependent on oxygen and had been falling frequently. Upon his arrival at the Wolf Creek Campus, Samuel barely responded to visitors and often appeared confused. He slept most of the day and looked more like a man dying than recovering. The family even arranged for Samuel to receive the Sacrament of the Sick from a priest. Over the last month, though, Samuel has received nursing care and intensive therapy. His family has made a point to visit every day and support him as he had so often supported them. They are his cheerleading squad, encouraging him to eat and exercise. With nutritious meals, rest, love, and medical support, Samuel is gradually improving. The light has returned to his eyes. While he still tires easily and has some bad days, he has more energy and the good days are more frequent. Under the supervision of the therapy staff, he has begun to move through the halls with a walker. He has a long way to go, but the old Samuel is beginning to emerge.