



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



October 2021

TOLEDO CAMPUS

Previously, "Sarah" had come to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus for short-term rehabilitation, and she had a great experience. When she required a knee replacement, Sarah chose to return to The Labuhn Center on the Toledo Campus for her recovery. She is very happy with the care she is receiving. Sarah said that everyone treats her like family, and she is receiving great care. Staff members put her needs first, respond quickly, and work toward her goals. When she first arrived on the campus, walking was difficult. Therapists have worked with her to improve function and mobility, and now she is walking well. Sarah is happy with her progress. The nursing staff is also keeping a close eye on her to make sure she does not have any complications. Sarah is grateful for the care she has received and says she would recommend the Toledo Campus to anyone needing rehabilitation.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Denise," an assisted living resident of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, has been fighting a long battle with the effects of diabetes. Ten years ago, she underwent gastric bypass surgery that permanently altered her diet. She has lost most of her sight and is considered blind. She has also survived two heart attacks. These challenges led Denise to move into one of Wolf Creek's assisted living apartments four years ago. She is free to come and go as she pleases – including to her local church community every Sunday – but she also has the daily support she needs. One of Denise's biggest challenges came this past year when her kidneys failed. She required dialysis to stay alive and a kidney transplant to return to normal life. For this, the support of the Wolf Creek staff was a difference maker. Medication management was very significant for Denise. "I'm blind, and the medication was changing all the time," she said. After the transplant, Wolf Creek's therapy team helped Denise better organize her apartment and rebuild her strength. Aides helped her keep track of her urine output, responding every time she had to use the bathroom. One particular aide accompanied her to doctors' appointments. "She was my eyes and ears," Denise said. Denise knows that she has the people around her to support her needs.



GENACROSS AT HOME

Genacross at Home had been providing nursing care and aide services to "Jeff," a Genacross affordable housing resident, through a Medicaid managed care program. After the nurse and aide noticed a substantial change in Jeff's ability to care for himself, Genacross at Home reached out to Jeff's family, his Medicaid case manager, and his Genacross housing service coordinator to share their observations and concerns. Before other services could be implemented or potential placement secured, however, Jeff fell in his apartment and broke his shoulder. He was admitted to the hospital and subsequently needed rehab services to continue his recovery. Working together, Genacross at Home staff, his housing service coordinator, his waiver case manager, and family were able to collaborate and create a plan of action. They determined Jeff needed palliative care to manage his illness, provide support, and improve his quality of life. When Jeff returns home after his rehabilitation, he will have the care and services needed to maximize his comfort and health.

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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HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

During the month of September, five of the Genacross affordable housing sites held on-site flu shot clinics for residents. With the fall and winter months quickly approaching, these clinics made it very convenient for residents to get their annual flu shots. "The in-house clinics are a huge help to the residents who can't get out," stated the Service Coordinator for Luther Haus in Temperance, Michigan. Some of the residents are homebound due either to transportation issues or physical challenges. The clinics are also helpful to immunocompromised residents who, with COVID-19 cases spiking again, are not comfortable with going out to be vaccinated. "I think the in-house clinics reduced the residents' stress," she added. "It's one less thing they have to worry about." In some cases, the pharmacy representative even went to the residents' apartments to provide the shot if they did not feel they could walk to the community room where it was being held or wanted more privacy. Scheduling and providing these clinics can have a tremendous impact in the residents' lives, and it is rewarding for staff to see the positive impact of connecting residents with a beneficial community resource.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Diane" has been a part of the family at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years. She loves singing and playing the piano every chance she gets: for worship, sing-alongs and with the praise singers who come from a local church. Sometimes she sings by herself just because she is happy. She has a beautiful soprano voice that can reach high notes effortlessly. The residents love to listen to her sing and play. She gives them joy, and her songs are uplifting and inspiring. Even though her legs and shoulders hurt, Diane keeps on playing and singing. She does this out of love, and it gives her a wonderful sense of purpose. This is so important for all residents, since experiencing purpose and joy is often a struggle for them. Creating purpose (and joy) is something with which staff members can help. Because so many residents appreciate Diane's gift, staff members do their part by providing her with opportunities to share her gift with others, and in the process, lift the spirits of everyone.



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Fall brings many anticipated activities, and one of them for most teenagers is the homecoming dance tradition. While Genacross Family & Youth Services provides care and services for abused and neglected youth and youth with mental health issues, the ministry also tries to provide normalcy during their childhood and teenage years. Participating in homecoming is one way to do this for high school students. This year, more youth served by Family & Youth caregivers attended homecoming dances than any other that staff could remember. "Anna" was excited about attending the homecoming dance at Liberty Center High School. A staff member from the Maumee Youth Center where she resides took Anna shopping for shoes and a dress and did her nails, while another team member did her make-up and hair. Anna had a wonderful time and is now hoping to go to prom in the spring. Two youth from the Anthony Wayne Group Home, "Eliza" and "John," attended the homecoming dance at Anthony Wayne High School. "Rachel" from the East Toledo Group Home and "Cadence" from the Oregon Group Home both attended Clay High School's homecoming dance. All four of these youth were so excited to be a part of a "typical" high school experience. The girls all went shopping for their dresses with staff and John was excited to get dress pants and a tie for the big event. The Family & Youth team members were thrilled for these youth to participate in the first homecoming dances of their lives. Many photos were taken to celebrate this teenage milestone.