

The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CVII No. 4 CHRISTMAS 2021

Faith makes all things possible.
Hope makes all things work.
Love makes all things beautiful.
May you have all three for
this Christmas.



NEW ADRIAN GROUP HOME WAITING TO SERVE YOUTH

Genacross Family & Youth Services held an Open House for its Adrian Group Home on September 30. Nearly 200 individuals toured the new home that was built from the ground up on land donated to the organization many years ago.

Among the attendees were multiple officials from local school districts, a Lenawee County Commissioner, and representatives from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). Conversations focused on the different youth that may be placed in the home, appropriate school settings, and the best ways to meet the needs of the youth that will come into care.

Final inspections are pending for the home, which can serve up to 10 youth at a time. "We have scheduled a final review of our policies and procedures, as well as an on-site visit by our Michigan licensing consultant in December," reported Executive Director Katie Zawisza. "We expect to have all paperwork submitted by the end of the year, so we can open the Adrian Group Home in January 2022.



The home's open interior is a warm, calming gray, and the dining area features a wood table built and donated by Genacross Director of Facilities Management John Henry.

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OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey.

OUR VISION

Through our faith and work, we strive to be a forward-thinking, compassionate organization that improves the lives of current and future generations.

OUR VALUES

Faithfulness to Christ

Equality and Justice

Wholeness of Life

Integrity

Quality of Service

Stewardship of Resources

OUR MINISTRIES

Genacross Lutheran Services
Napoleon Campus

Genacross Lutheran Services
Toledo Campus

Genacross Lutheran Services
Wolf Creek Campus

Genacross Home & Community
Based Services

Genacross at Home

Genacross Family &
Youth Services

Genacross Lutheran Services
Foundation

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A note from

RICK MARSHALL

President and CEO



Changing to meet needs

Recently, Genacross announced plans to sell our Toledo Campus to Majestic Care. The decision to sell was not an easy one. Since 1906, when the Lutheran Old Folks' Home opened its doors, caring for elders has been a significant part of the organization's operations. The Toledo Campus is where we began our journey into caring for older adults along with children in need. Over the years, the campus has evolved with expansions and renovations that have helped us meet the changing needs of society.

Now, however, the Toledo Campus buildings are in need of capital improvements in order to remain competitive in today's health care market. Unfortunately, Genacross has been unable to fund the needed improvements. By finding a new owner/operator with more capability and capital for renovations, we are ensuring that the campus will continue to serve those in need.

Genacross continues to meet the needs of individuals on the east side of Toledo in multiple ways. Our independent living communities (Luther Hills, Luther Ridge, and Luther Grove) provide affordable housing to seniors with limited incomes. In addition, several group homes in the area serve at-risk youth by providing a safe and nurturing environment. In partnership with Majestic Care, Genacross at Home will also provide home health care to patients discharged from the Toledo Campus.

As we look to our future, Genacross remains committed to providing services that fit within our ability to make a positive impact. For example, we eagerly await the opening of our new Family & Youth Services home in Adrian, Michigan, in early 2022. Furthermore, we are engaged in master planning for our Napoleon Campus to ensure that we provide the right mix of services to meet future needs. The addition of more independent living and memory care are likely outcomes of this planning process. As more people receive care in their homes, we are also well-positioned to grow our home health ministry.

There are times in the life cycle of an organization when it is necessary to change focus to meet the evolving needs of society. Genacross has made adjustments many times during its 160-year history. I am confident that the moves we are making today, while difficult, will position us for a vibrant future meeting the needs of all we are called to serve.

Blessings,

GENACROSS INITIATES SALE OF TOLEDO CAMPUS

On November 15, Genacross Lutheran Services announced that it has reached an agreement to sell the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus. The Genacross Board of Directors has approved the terms of the sale, and the transfer of ownership is expected to be finalized by the end of 2021.

Majestic Care will be the new operator. Based in Westfield, Indiana, Majestic Care has 31 facilities in Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio. They provide community-based skilled nursing care, including short-term rehabilitation, therapy services, memory care, long-term care, and hospice care.

As part of the sale, employees of the Toledo Campus will transition to Majestic Care. While the sale is being completed, all operations at the Toledo Campus will continue as normal and staffing levels will be maintained.

"Employees will play a significant role in the transition by continuing to provide quality care and services for our residents and patients," said Rick Marshall, President/CEO.

The day after the announcement, the CEO of Majestic Management, Bernie McGuinness, visited the Toledo Campus. Then, over the next couple of days, Majestic Care human resources representatives came to the campus to help employees begin the transition.

"We are thrilled to welcome the team to Majestic Care of Toledo, where they join our growing family of post-acute care communities," Mr. McGuinness said. "This community adds to the Majestic family an incredibly beautiful campus...a trusted provider in post-acute care."

"We are so excited to continue the outstanding traditions of quality care and faith on the campus while meeting the needs



The current assisted living building at the Toledo Campus was built in 1953 as a Home for the Aging.



President/CEO Rick Marshall (standing center) and leadership speak to employees about the sale of the Toledo Campus.

of the local health care community," he added. "We are planning a significant campus-wide remodel to start in early 2022."

The fact that Majestic Care has a strong history of investment in facilities they have purchased is one of the main reasons Genacross selected them as the new owner. The historic Toledo Campus, which opened in 1953 and has been expanded and renovated numerous times, is in need of numerous capital improvements that Genacross has been unable to fund.

"I am confident that we have found a new owner/operator who will ensure that the Toledo Campus will continue to serve those in need in east Toledo and Oregon for years to come," Mr. Marshall said. "Majestic Care has the financial resources and industry expertise to make it happen."

The Toledo Campus, located on the border of east Toledo and Oregon, provides long-term care and assisted living services, as well as short-term rehabilitation at The Labuhn Center. The campus is also the ministry home for many Genacross team members who faithfully serve residents and patients.

"We are excited about adding over 80 care team members to the Majestic family, and we are humbled to keep so many talented health care providers within the community," Mr. McGuinness said.

For more perspective on the sale, see the CEO column on page 2.

GENACROSS APPOINTS DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Genacross Lutheran Services announces the appointment of Jeff Barror as Director of Operations. Mr. Barror will oversee the ongoing operations and development of the senior care line of service. This service line includes the Genacross care campuses, which provide long-term care, skilled nursing care and rehabilitation, assisted living, and independent living services.

Mr. Barror has worked 20 years in the senior living industry, serving in several areas including admissions and marketing, single-site operations, and multi-site operations. He has worked in both the for-profit and non-profit sectors, and he prefers the non-profit side much more due to the approach, mission, and values involved with assisting the underserved.

"Jeff brings a wealth of knowledge of senior services to his role at Genacross," stated President/CEO Rick Marshall.

"He has a passion for ensuring the highest quality of care for our residents and providing leadership for our team members. His experience and commitment will prove vital

as we position Genacross to meet the needs of seniors well into the future."

Mr. Barror received a bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Toledo and completed the Core of Knowledge course at The Ohio State University to become a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator in 2008.



Jeff Barror, LNHA

"I was drawn to Genacross as an organization because it fit my preference to work in a non-profit environment that places their customers first," he said. "I was also impressed with the focus on organizational integrity. Operating an organization in a transparent and ethical manner is paramount."

He resides in Sylvania, Ohio, with his wife, Jill, his 12-year-old son, Davis, and the family dog named Skittles.

Creekside changes target improved resident experience

Genacross leadership has implemented several changes to enhance the resident experience at Creekside Condominiums on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. These enhancements include the staffing additions of a service coordinator and activities director and a renewed emphasis on resident dining.



Creekside residents are enthusiastic about the improved dining experience and activities.

The aim of service coordination is to connect residents to supportive services that foster independent living. After engaging in discussions with residents, Service Coordinator Anna Queen has provided such resident-centered services as routine wellness screenings, vaccine clinics, and home health resources. Overall, the service coordinator works to enhance the self-sufficiency of each Creekside resident.

The new Activities Director, Karen Stevens, has been introducing engaging entertainers and activities to the residents. Harpist Rebecca Swett gave a performance in October, and residents have been having fun with new crafts and cardio drumming classes. In December, a magician is on the activities schedule, as well as a beautiful Christmas dinner with a return performance by the harpist.

Through the team efforts of new dietary managers Jane Sharp and Valerie DeGideo, Creekside now serves breakfast and dinner each weekday, with many items made from scratch. "These home-cooked meals are steadily gaining popularity, and resident participation in the dining room has tripled," said Ashlee Jones, Creekside Manager.

"Creekside staff has put a great deal of time and energy into modifications to make the community more attractive and add value for residents," Ms. Jones stated.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day on November 11 was a special day of celebration at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. Staff at the Napoleon Campus recognized two residents who have served honorably in branches of the United States Armed Forces.

Resident Fred “Coach” Church served as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army during World War II, and resident Sam Ash served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. Each veteran enjoyed a steak dinner with all the trimmings and received a memorial pin.

As Napoleon Campus Chaplain Lee Genter placed the pins 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.”

Mr. Church, 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,” he 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.”

For that bravery and a multitude of other reasons, the Napoleon Campus, like many Genacross ministries, takes time each year to honor those who have served their country.



The Veterans Wall (top) honors residents who have served, including veterans Sam Ash (left) and Fred “Coach” Church.

Christ's love shows equality and justice for all

During the past year, Genacross Lutheran Services has focused its attention on its second core value, Equality and Justice, noting first, the Creator's love for each and every individual and all whom they serve, equally (John 3:16), and, then, Christ's command to love one another as he loved the world (John 15:12). “Having focused on both parts of this value for Genacross,” the Rev. Dr. Jim Dumke, Vice President for Mission Integration, stated, “it is helpful, as we now enter the Christmas season, to discover that they are also very important parts of its message.”

“We know how Luke began his account of the Spirit of God's entry onto the world scene with the familiar and well-loved story of the birth of the Christ-child (Luke 2:1-20),” Dr. Dumke explained. “Notice that Jesus was not born in Rome or Jerusalem, or in some other world capital; nor did his

birth take place in a palace, or in a temple or church, or (if there was one) in a hospital. He was born in a lowly stable in a small village, complete with the animals.”

“And, then, notice the people to whom this royal birth was announced: not to the emperor, or governor, or king, or high priest, or some other big shot; instead, God sent the angels to regular folks tending sheep,” Dr. Dumke added. “The angel's message, of course, tells it all: ‘I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...’ (Luke 2:10).”

“Just as the Christmas message was and is for all people,” Dr. Dumke concluded, “so Genacross provides compassionate care and services to all who need them – as Jesus did in his ministry and calls us to do in ours. After all, completing our mission means living the equality and justice revealed by our Lord.”



YEAR-END GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

As the year draws to a close, many donors will support Genacross Lutheran Services with a year-end gift. We hope you will consider being one of those donors. Each year, Genacross provides over \$5 million of free care. No one is ever turned out for their inability to pay, but that amount requires a commitment by the organization and its donors.

Please consider making a recurring monthly gift by using one of these options:

- Using our secure, third-party website link,
- Sending donations by mail, or
- Calling the Foundation office with your credit or debit card information.

As with all donations to Genacross, monthly gifts can be designated however the donor wishes. For more details on how to support Genacross, please visit our website at www.GenacrossLutheranServices.org/Foundation/donate or contact Foundation Executive Director Mike George at 419.861.4964 or MiGeorge@Genacross.org.

The Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation is also delighted to share with donors and friends a video comprised of footage taken of the residents and staff of our orphanage in the 1950s. The brief video can be viewed on the home page of the Genacross website. It includes scenes of everyday life at the orphanage, as well as the excited children pouring into the dining room on Christmas morning and opening their many gifts, which were donated by countless caring individuals and organizations each year. Many thanks to donor Terry L. Bossert, whose financial gift made this priceless video possible.

The building where the children lived is still standing in east Toledo, near several Genacross ministry locations.



The orphanage building still stands at 2411 Seaman Street in Toledo. It was where hundreds of children were provided a loving home for many years.



It is an emotional experience to walk the same halls that housed over 1,000 children between 1919 and 1964. Tours are available for students, church groups, organizations and small groups. For more information, contact Anne at 419.861.4965 or email ABiel@Genacross.org.

Thank you for financially supporting and believing in the mission of Genacross Lutheran Services. With your support, we will continue to help youth, older adults, and individuals of all ages receive the care and services they need.

IN MEMORY OF

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2021

Jack Abke by William L. Welling

Sally Babcock by Cheryl Daman

William "Randy" Benner by Miriam & Ted Benner, Joette Boyd-Randall, Ken & Connie Dick, Mike &

Kathy Schnapp, Bob & Terry Wagoner

Al Billow by Mary Billow

JoAnn V. Boyd by Joette Boyd-Randall

Carol A. Cross by Benjamin Cross

My husband, Walden "Bud" Damschroder, by Mrs. Mary A. Damschroder

Velma Durham by Anonymous, Jack & Sheryl Boyd, Mary Jo Moden, Ruth Warncke, Richard & Lucy Wise

Mary Lou Frysinger by Richard & Suzette Hamlin

Norma Jean Gast by Mr. Terry L. Gast

My husband, Bert Hardin, by Nancy Hardin

Dolores Heilman by Esther Bell

Charlotte Held by Evelyn Loughman, Donna Rodriguez

Donald H. & Virginia L. Koester by Douglas Jacobs, Mr. & Mrs. John Lechman, Mr. & Mrs. Lee Lemmon

Jack & Rosalyn Koss by The Koss Family

IN MEMORY OF

- continued

Jacob "Jack" Koss by Rosalyn Koss

Donna Lepiarz by Kathleen Kelsey, Amy Klinger, Kathy Kozman, Jean Winkelman

Beverly Long by Michael Korsch

Loretta Lukasak by Sharon Ann Wheeler

Irene Maas by Cheryl Daman

Norene & Merritt Moore by Nancy A. Taylor

Alma Mueller by Lynn & Joyce Oلمان

My wife, Mary, by Weldon Mueller

Our dear friend, Karis Box, by Dave & Pam Roberts

Sheryl Pero by St. Paul WELCA, Clyde

Carolyn Plassman by Cheryl Daman

Joe Sawyer by St. Paul WELCA, Clyde

Sylvia Shaul by St. Paul WELCA, Clyde

Sara Stiles by Cheryl Daman

NON-CASH

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2021

J&K Pallet and Liquidations, Napoleon

IN HONOR OF

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2021

Geraldine E. Braunfels by Jean Winkelman

Our Heavenly Father, who gives us refuge, by John Weislmeier

Our Heavenly Father, whom alone should be called Hallowed, by John Weislmeier

Jennie Parsons by Phillip & Marian Parsons

Mary Stewart by Jo Anne Stanton

Winnie Wohlgamuth's 80th birthday by Elaine Gladieux

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2021

Anonymous
Beverly Apel
Georgia Ardner
Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Gerald Bauer
Jason Beyer
Jim & Katy Bingle
Patricia Blankenship
Terry Bossert
Chuck & Karen Botzko
Stephen & Deborah Bowsher
Kari Bucher
Ruby Burkey
Christina Burnette
Elizabeth Cannon
Angela Clay
Diane Cline
William & Annette Clinebell
James Cordy
Tamara Dawson-Kynard
Alan & Mary Ann Draves
Dr. Jim & Dawn Dumke
Glenn Geldien
Elaine Gruetter
Victoria & Demetrius Harris
Wendy Holub
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Beverly Mackey
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Jon Russell
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Rev. & Mrs. Dale Schaefer
Jeff & Lorinda Schalk
Rev. & Mrs. Logan Scheiwe
Amanda Schroeder
Jeff & Paige Schulte
Jane Sharp
Scott Slee
Carol Taylor
Linda Weaver
Pastor Jim & Nancy Wenger
Darlene Williams
Katie & Jay Zawisza

CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2021

St. Martin, Archbold
Christ, Bowling Green
St. Paul, Bowling Green
St. John, Deshler
Grace, Elmore
Grace, Fremont
St. Mark, Fremont
St. Matthew, Lima
St. Paul, Maybee, MI
St. Peter, Norwalk
St. John, Oak Harbor
St. Michael, Ottawa Lake, MI
Bethlehem, Pemberville
Church of the Master, Perrysburg

Zoar, Perrysburg
Zion, Petersburg, MI
Resurrection, Port Clinton
St. John, Rocky Ridge
St. John's, Stony Ridge
St. Paul, Sulphur Springs
Faith, Swanton
Concordia, Toledo
Faith, Toledo
First St. John, Toledo
Messiah, Toledo
Trinity, Wauseon
Solomon, Woodville

If we have failed to list your name or have listed it incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact Anne at 419.861.4965 to correct our records.

ORGANIZATIONAL DONATIONS

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2021

AmazonSmile Foundation, Seattle, WA
CWS Environmental, Perrysburg
ECS Solutions, Dublin
The Employers' Association, Maumee
Greater Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.
Jackson Lewis P.C., Cleveland
Kroger Community Rewards, Columbus
Maumee Valley Group, Defiance
Plante Moran, PLLC, Columbus
Prelude Services, Mechanicsburg, PA
Stapleton Insurance Group, Sylvania
Thrivent, Appleton, WI
Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing, Minneapolis, MN
TOPS #1648, Erie, MI
Trust Company Family Offices, Holland

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Spanish: ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-546-7745 (TTY: 1-888-546-7745).

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HOUSING RESIDENTS BENEFIT FROM ON-SITE CLINICS

During the fall months, the Genacross affordable housing sites have held on-site flu and/or COVID-19 booster shot clinics for residents. Each housing site normally schedules annual flu shot clinics to help protect its residents, and this year COVID-19 vaccine booster shots were added to the lineup.

"The in-house clinics are a huge help to the residents who can't get out," stated Arlena Williams, Service Coordinator for Luther Haus senior community 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."

"The vaccine clinics offer residents the convenience and comfort of receiving a shot close to home," said Anna Queen, Service Coordinator for Luther Crest and Luther Woods senior communities in Toledo.

"I am glad I did not have to go out to get my booster shot," said Luther Crest resident Barbara Oehlers. "My great grandson...has cancer so I wanted to get the booster to be around him for the holidays."



Covenant Harbor resident Karen Payton (top) receives her shot with a smile, and Luther Ridge resident Carmen Martinez is also happy to get a vaccine booster.



Connect with Genacross Lutheran Services on social media. We are now on Facebook and LinkedIn, providing new ways you can learn about, share, and comment on the latest Genacross news and events.

GenacrossLutheranServices.org