



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



FAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST
160 years
1860 - 2020

June 2020

There is a hymn loved by many titled “I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry.” It celebrates God’s presence with us at every moment of our lives, both good and bad, watching over us, cheering us on, and surprising us with unexpected blessings. Those whose lives are touched by Genacross Lutheran Services experience that presence through our caregivers, who often meet residents, patients and clients during difficult times in their lives.

God also works in our midst through everyday actions by those who maintain our facilities, prepare the food, and offer spiritual care and comfort. His presence can be felt when our home health nurses and therapists go into people’s homes to help them heal. He provides loving, compassionate service through all of our staff, adding moments of fun, laughter, and creativity.

During May 10-16, National Skilled Nursing Care Week was celebrated at our care campuses to raise up the staff and residents. To be sure, our staff members are super heroes, and the wisdom they share truly is a gift from God. Their faithful, patient work is one way in which God works in our midst, using their knowledge and skill to bless those whom they serve. Throughout the week, many events were created to celebrate with the staff and residents in healthy ways.

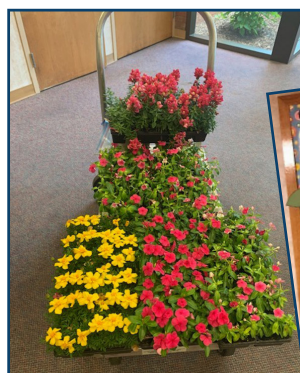
In spite of the restrictions and limitations of the COVID-19 pandemic, God has continued with us, as well, through the thoughtful sharing of so many friends, as congregations, businesses, and individuals supported Genacross with such gifts as donuts, meals, and flowers. The Wolf Creek Campus successfully completed a mask drive, receiving more than 500



A lunch at the Napoleon Campus during National Skilled Nursing Care Week celebrates staff.



Calvary Church in Toledo dropped off donuts for staff at the Wolf Creek Campus.



A donation of flowers helps beautify the Toledo Campus.



A board at the Wolf Creek Campus echoes the nursing care week theme and shares words of advice from residents and staff.



Wolf Creek’s mask drive was successful, and staff members are very thankful.

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masks from generous congregations and individuals. In addition, youth in our Family & Youth Services program brought joy to our Toledo Campus with hand-made cards and cookies. In such ways, we are called to love and serve one another.

Thankfully, throughout Genacross, some of the required restrictions are beginning to be relaxed. What a blessing it is for residents on our care campuses, many of whom have had to remain in their rooms, unable to be visited by their families and friends or even one another, to be able to gather in common areas to interact in small groups. The community rooms at our independent living housing sites are open for gatherings as well. The opportunity to communicate face to face, even at a safe distance, is one way God gives hope. Another recent and significant change is that assisted living residents can now have outdoor visits with family and friends, while being mindful of required social distancing and wearing masks. These reunions bring much joy.

Toledo Campus residents were able to watch a parade of 53 cars, with over 100 loved ones waving hello and spreading happiness. Everyone loves a parade, and the Napoleon Campus had one, too. This "Parade of Lights" featured first responder vehicles flashing their lights and sirens. After the procession through the campus, officers placed wooden crosses in the each resident's window box.

Also, true to the promise that "Borning Cry" celebrates, the arrival of spring and the approach of summer has brought new opportunities. Sunshine and warmer weather provide "a breath of fresh air" for residents who can go outside. Residents interested in gardening have been able to enjoy that pastime. They are raising flowers and vegetables and, as they do so, they are cultivating life and beauty and sharing in God's gift of creation. Here is another way in which God provides hope and joy.

God is, indeed, at work in our midst. He is present in the day-to-day routines of our staff, and the elderly and youth we serve. He is there in the surprises. He gives us each other and, through our relationships, He helps us, comforts us, encourages us, and assures us that we are never alone. In addition, He gives us people to serve and a purpose that through us our world and our life in it can be a blessing.



Cards and cookies from children in our Family & Youth program were delivered to the Toledo Campus.



Wolf Creek Campus assisted living residents visit with family outside in the fresh air.



An outdoor visit made the day special for Napoleon Campus assisted living resident Sherry Joseph.



Toledo Campus residents watch a parade of their loved ones.



After the Parade of Lights at the Napoleon Campus, officers placed colorful crosses outside residents' windows.



Resident Anne Millen plants flowers on the Napoleon Campus.



The front entrance of Luther Haus senior community in Temperance, Michigan, looks great thanks to resident Gloria Roth.