



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



September 2019

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Gina” loves living in the assisted living community of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Unable to walk independently for some time, she zips around the Wolf Creek Campus on an electric wheelchair, staying active and making friends. When Gina came down with the flu, she was miserable for a few days and then tried to resume her normal activities. Unfortunately, her strength was less, and occasionally – a couple times per week – she needed not one, but two people to help her to bed. This was significant, since the requirement for assisted living is a one-person bed assist. The head nurse reached out to Gina and her family members to discuss the decline in strength. After much discussion, they decided to move her for a short-term rehab stay at Wolf Creek’s Health Center, which was literally the next building over.

Gina’s rehab room was smaller, but she appreciated receiving extra help and intensive physical and occupational therapy. The therapists even took her to her assisted living apartment (which was being held for her) to practice the skills she would need to return home. It was slow going, but Gina made steady progress. Visits from her good friend Sally and joint activities, such as movies and the monthly birthday party, boosted her spirits. After three weeks of therapy, Gina was able to transfer consistently to bed with only one person assisting her. She knows that one day she may need the support of full-time nursing care, but for now she was able to return to her apartment. Gina had feared losing the life she so enjoyed in assisted living and is very thankful to be home.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Fiona” and her family chose the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for her long-term care needs. She has Parkinson’s disease, which makes it very hard to do everyday tasks. Before she moved to the Napoleon Campus’ Health Center, her husband was overwhelmed with her care, and it was becoming very stressful for the family. The staff at the Napoleon Campus make it possible for Fiona and her family to spend time together in a positive atmosphere. Her husband visits every day, and they eat dinner together. They also enjoy listening to baseball games, and family members frequently spend time reminiscing outside on the patio. Fiona is receiving therapy, and her family can see that she is getting stronger each day. She is comfortable and happy in the supportive, caring environment of the Napoleon Campus. Her husband has expressed his profound gratitude over being able to visit and do their favorite things together without the stress of being her primary caregiver.

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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FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Every once in a while, younger children are placed with Genacross Family & Youth Services, and staff members are left wondering why. The children may not display all of the behaviors and concerns documented in their referral information. “Matthew” was one of those kids. He was only six years old when he was placed at the Wynn Group Home. A short time later, he was transitioned to the Oregon Group Home to be with children closer to his age. He continued to show typical age-appropriate behaviors for a boy – playing with toys, struggling to learn chores, and, at times, having mild temper tantrums. In May of this year, Genacross recommended to his referring agency that Matthew be placed in a loving foster or adoptive home. About a month later, he met with a couple interested in adopting him. They also met with his therapist to learn ways to help lessen his anxiety over being loved and accepted into a family. Consistent visits and family therapy appointments were set for Matthew and the couple so they could get to know each other. Everything went well, so Matthew transitioned to his new home prior to the start of school to give him time to adjust to his new family life.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Betty” and “Joe” have been married for 77 years. Recently, they sold their home and moved into a Genacross Lutheran Services’ independent living community. While they are both in their 90s, Joe is still driving. He was in the Air Force and has shown his Genacross Service Coordinator pictures of his time in the service. He likes to talk to the other veterans living in his housing community about the war and their collective experiences. Betty and Joe grew up and raised their family in the country. Joe worked for the post office, and Betty was a stay-at-home mom. They are fortunate to have a great deal of family support. Recently, their family presented them with a large plaque commemorating their lengthy marriage that hangs in their apartment. When asked what their secret is to a long marriage they said, “Compromise.” Living in their apartment and being part of the Genacross family has been a truly good fit for the couple. They appreciate that maintenance is provided and that there are many opportunities to socialize with other residents.



GENACROSS AT HOME

Due to a decrease in strength caused by medical issues, “Sarah” has received skilled nursing and therapy services several times from Genacross at Home. In addition, accidents in her home have left her with rehabilitation needs. As a Genacross at Home staff member was working with her one day, Sarah mentioned that she was having financial difficulties with paying her bills. Genacross at Home arranged for its social worker to meet with Sarah to determine if there was assistance available. The Genacross at Home social worker was able to coordinate services that paid Sarah’s utility bills, gave her discounted transportation services, and helped with her medication costs. Sara is very grateful for the assistance, which has lessened her anxiety and allowed her to focus more on her physical needs.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Jane,” is a patient at The Labuhn Center on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus. She is no stranger to rehabilitation, since she has been hospitalized numerous times with serious health issues where she has needed help with her recovery. She considers herself a survivor with a positive attitude, who is willing to work hard to achieve a goal. Her goal is to return home. When Jane first arrived at The Labuhn Center for her rehabilitation, she could not sit up without assistance and was having difficulty eating. She started making progress, but suffered a setback and was re-admitted to the hospital. Upon her return to The Labuhn Center, she resumed therapy, and “Boom, I bounced right back,” Jane stated. She likes the fact that the staff does not do everything for her. “They challenge me,” she added. “When I get home, I’ll have to do it myself. I need to be able to stand so I can cook meals for myself.” Jane described the therapists as “really positive with everybody. They applauded when I walked 100 feet. They make you want to work harder.” Jane is very thankful for the progress that she is making. She appreciates the care she is receiving at The Labuhn Center and thinks “it’s a place to be proud of.” Jane continues to work hard, stay positive, and strive to reach her goal of returning home.