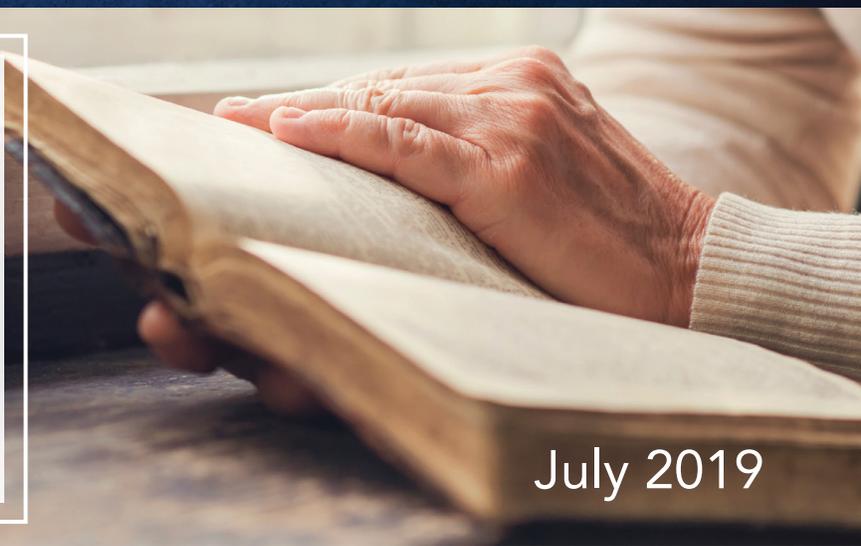




GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



July 2019

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

On any given day, there are nearly 16,000 youth in Ohio living away from their parents. More than 2,600 of them are waiting to be adopted. Of those awaiting adoption, more than 1,000 of those youth are teenagers. It is not often that families look to adopt teenagers. Recently at Genacross Family & Youth Services, adoptive families were identified for two teenage girls at the Genacross Maumee Youth Center. Both “Anna” and “Corrina” had been placed at the Maumee Youth Center after multiple failed placements. Although the adoption of teenage girls with histories of trauma and failed placements can be difficult, Genacross Family & Youth is helping to ease this process in a number of ways. The girls participate in both group and individual counseling to prepare them for the sometimes overwhelming emotions and stress of being adopted. Both also participate in the Partners in Treatment Weekend program with their potential adoptive families. During this weekend, the parents attend trainings to help understand and learn how to parent teenagers with mental health diagnoses and histories of trauma. The girls and potential family members also participate in family therapy and group therapy during these monthly weekends. With this preparation, both young women will have the best chance of successful adoptions into their forever homes.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Mark” and “Diane” spent several years together sharing a large, two-bedroom assisted living apartment on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Diane suffered from dementia but, with Mark’s support, was able to live a full, active life. The two attended activities and chapel every week, building friendships and a community around them. Several months ago, Diane took a turn for the worse and began receiving hospice care in her apartment. Assisted by family, and Wolf Creek and hospice staff, Mark cared for her in her final days. When Diane passed away, friends, family, and Wolf Creek staff members embraced Mark. He stayed in his home for a short while and then moved to a smaller one-bedroom apartment down the hall from “David” and “Lori,” a married couple who had become his best friends. Then Lori fell ill and was hospitalized. Wolf Creek staff supported David during this time, and Mark was there for him, too. Mark made sure David continued to join him for meals and go to Bible Study until Lori returned home. The loss of a spouse is always devastating, but for Mark, the friendships and community of the Wolf Creek Campus have provided support and purpose as a new chapter of life unfolds.

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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TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Loretta” was admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus for IV therapy. When she arrived at the Toledo Campus, she soon realized the support and encouragement she was about to receive was going to be much more than she expected! Considering Loretta was in need of IV therapy, the nursing staff played a significant role in her recovery. “The nursing staff here is fantastic!” Loretta said. “They seem to care about each and every person.” At one point during her stay, Loretta experienced a very serious heart incident requiring immediate attention. “If the staff hadn’t gotten me to the hospital when they did, I wouldn’t be here,” she stated. After a short stay at Mercy St. Charles Hospital, Loretta returned to the Toledo Campus and quickly resumed her recovery efforts. “When I arrived, everyone was glad I was back, and I was glad to be here,” she said. Loretta is scheduled to return home soon and is forever grateful for the staff at the Toledo Campus. She is thriving and more than ready to tackle new obstacles. According to Loretta, “I would recommend this building to anyone!”

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Paul” has been in a nursing home since March 2017. He has a history of homelessness, high blood pressure, depression and alcoholism. He has endured the amputation of both legs due to frostbite. The Genacross Service Coordinator assigned to help Paul transition back into the community through the HOME Choice program worked extra hard to find housing for him, because of a monthly income of barely over \$300. After much time and energy, the Service Coordinator was successful. Recently, Paul moved into an apartment with financial assistance through the Lucas Metropolitan Housing Authority. In addition to \$2,000 in HOME Choice transition funds, his Service Coordinator was able to obtain nearly \$3,400 through the Recovery Requires a Community program. The Service Coordinator assisted Paul by purchasing the household items he needed to get started, and paying the first month’s rent and security deposit, as well as outstanding utility amounts and other required deposits. She also set up his apartment for his first night in his new home. Paul is a little overwhelmed by the many changes in his life, but he is very grateful for all the help with his successful transition.



GENACROSS AT HOME

“Sue” has received skilled home health services from Genacross at Home several times over the past two years. Because of health issues and weakness, she is confined to a wheelchair and struggles to maneuver herself around her house. Sue often depends on caregivers to help her move about her home. Due to her dependence on caregivers and ongoing health issues, she had to return to the hospital in January. At discharge, Sue restarted her skilled therapy services with Genacross at Home. She has continued with therapy, slowly building her strength. In addition, Genacross at Home has been working with Sue’s primary care physician to order a lighter weight wheelchair so she can maneuver throughout her home more easily. The combination of therapy services and a new wheelchair will help Sue remain independent in her home for as long as possible.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Jim” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after surgery to repair a fractured ankle. He was non-weight bearing for several weeks, and his doctors had told him that, due to his age and co-morbidities, he might never walk again without assistance. Jim was determined, however, to walk out of the facility on his own, and the therapy team was ready to help him beat the odds. After many triumphs and many, many setbacks, the day came when Jim put his walker aside and let the therapy team know he was going to be okay. Staff members gathered at the front door and clapped as he walked out of the facility. Many of them wanted to say goodbye to Jim, of course, but many may also have wanted to be witnesses of God’s work, as they watched Jim walk away with a smile on his face.