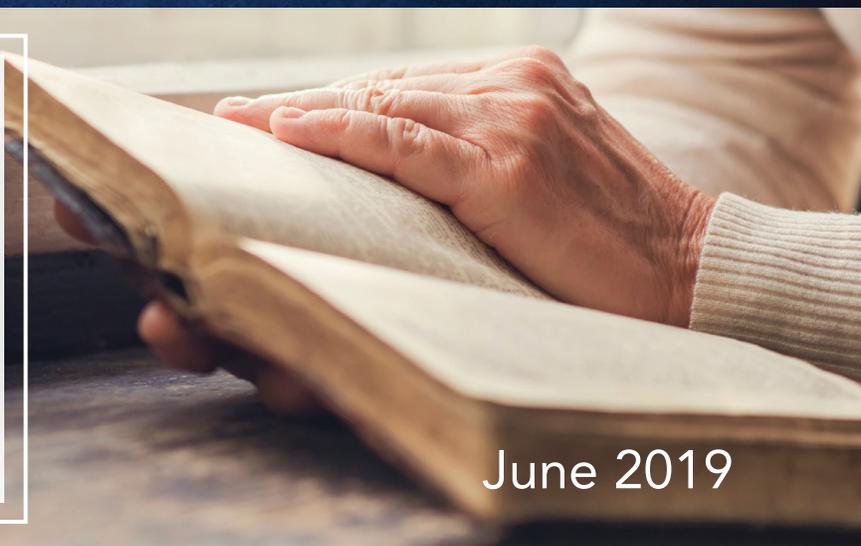




GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

*Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services*



June 2019

GENACROSS AT HOME

While still in the hospital following a complicated surgery, “Sophia” developed an infection. Determined to return home, she worked diligently with hospital staff to facilitate that outcome. She was discharged with orders for IV antibiotics and home health services through Genacross at Home. The same day she left the hospital, she saw her primary care physician and received additional orders for home health care. Unfortunately, the hospital’s orders for IV antibiotics contradicted the physician’s orders for a liquid antibiotic. The Genacross at Home nurse reviewed the conflicting orders with Sophia and her family. She then called the hospital’s discharge planner and the primary care physician’s office to discuss the discrepancy. The nurse also spoke with the pharmacy to ensure accuracy, and Sophia received the correct form of antibiotics the next day. Thanks to the quick actions of the Genacross at Home nurse, Sophia was able to remain in her home to recover from the surgery and the complications that followed it.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Rita” has resided in an assisted living apartment on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years. However, due to her poor eyesight and a change in physical abilities, she recently needed to transition to the Health Center for more care. She receives occupational and physical therapy to remain as strong as possible. Before Rita moved to assisted living on the Napoleon Campus, she enjoyed planting flowers and had a flower garden at her home. While living on the campus, she has always had fresh flowers in her room. She also enjoys making bouquets from fresh flowers. Rita’s therapists found a way to incorporate her passion for growing flowers into her therapy sessions. They use her sessions as time for Rita to cultivate flowers in the campus’ Prayer Garden. Many of the residents enjoy spending time there and observing the beautiful flowers she has planted. Now, as a result of Rita’s therapy efforts, many people can enjoy her passion for flowers.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Bob” had participated in the HOME Choice program in the past, but had un-enrolled due to ongoing health concerns. He was in a nursing facility for almost a year with complications from cancer, diabetes and congestive heart failure, before his health improved enough for him to re-enroll in the program. He was assigned to a Genacross Service Coordinator to help him transition back into the community. Bob’s Service Coordinator worked hard over the next five months to find low-income housing that would provide a supportive environment for his mobility issues and also accept his criminal background. In addition to finding him a place to live, the Service Coordinator managed his HOME Choice funds to purchase furniture, household goods, groceries, and personal care items to get him started in his new home. Bob has expressed his gratitude. “Thank you so much, you actually made it happen,” he told the Service Coordinator. “My last doctor’s appointment even shows an improvement in my health since I’ve moved out of the nursing facility.”

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.

GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

TOLEDO CAMPUS

When “David” could not return home following a hospital stay for an unexpected injury, the Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus was more than happy to welcome him back to The Labuhn Center. This was David’s third admission to the Toledo Campus for rehabilitation. One of the reasons he was not looking forward to his stay was because he loved living in his apartment at Luther Grove, a Genacross independent living senior community located across the street from the Toledo Campus. David often expressed his appreciation for having a home in a safe environment, with a friendly manager and neighbors. Staff at the Toledo Campus did everything possible to make his stay feel more like home, often spending time reminiscing with him about his previous stays. David enjoyed visiting with staff members and commented: “Everyone is nice and has a good personality. They will help you with anything!” As for therapy, David said, “I’ve been to a lot of therapy centers, and this place is hard to beat! I can tell that I’m improving!” After his inpatient recovery was complete, David returned to his Luther Grove apartment with home health services from Genacross at Home. He wants to remain independent in his home for as long as possible; however, should he need rehabilitation or long-term care in the future, he favors the Toledo Campus. “When I have to choose a long-term home, this will be it,” David stated.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Robert” sustained major injuries during an automobile accident. He broke both of his arms, had a hernia, and experienced temporary cognitive impairment. Robert spent a few weeks at a local hospital before being admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus Health Center for skilled nursing care and rehabilitation. Around the same time, Robert’s wife, “Nora,” was at home declining physically, and she was also admitted to the



Health Center. Both of them were learning how to get a sense of normalcy back into their life. Robert worked with therapy every day. It was not an easy road for him, with each day bringing a new set of challenges to overcome. The couple would spend time together during afternoon and evening meals. Nora was progressing, but family knew she could not return home without her husband. She decided to move into an assisted living apartment on the campus, hoping that her husband would be able to join her one day. Robert continued to work hard, and after a couple of months, he made a full recovery. The day finally came when Robert was able to join his wife and start their life in their new home. The couple is so thankful to the Wolf Creek Campus staff for all of the care and support they have received during this unexpected journey.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

At Genacross Family & Youth Services, staff members often share stories of how the ministry work they do touches the lives of young people. There are also times, however, when these young people are the ones who make a difference to others. Throughout the month of May, each Family & Youth program was challenged to serve in their local community. Both the Anthony Wayne and the Oregon group homes visited local fire departments and shared homemade baked goods with the firefighters on duty. In return, the youth toured the firehouses, tried on uniforms, and learned how the trucks worked.

Meanwhile, individuals at the Wynn Group Home took homemade chocolate chip cookies to the Oregon Police Department, where they were also photographed with one of the officers they recognized from the community. The girls from the East Toledo Group Home took flowers, cupcakes, and handmade drawings to residents at the nearby Genacross Lutheran Services-Toledo Campus. While there, they also participated in activities with the residents. Adults in the program went to a local horse barn, where they groomed horses and cleaned stalls. Meanwhile, youth from the Genacross Maumee Youth Center cleaned trash from a local park and took baked goods to the Henry County Sheriff’s Office. Staff from the administrative office even got into the challenge – taking bottled water, cookies, cakes, chips and other snacks to the nurses at St. Charles Hospital during National Nurses Week. Each program rose to the challenge and was blessed to experience the satisfaction of helping others.