



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



Just as many whose lives are touched by Genacross Lutheran Services, there are writers of Scripture who wondered, during difficult and challenging times, where God was and what was He doing about the troubles being faced by His people. "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" (Psalm 13:1) The COVID-19 pandemic has left many not only sick, but lonely and afraid. After over four months, we are still dealing with its effects and wondering where the future is leading us.

Yet, as people of faith, we need not despair. There is evidence all around us that we are not alone. God is at work in our midst right now, not just in worship, prayer, and the study of Scripture, where His presence is abundantly clear, but also in all sorts of other activities that involve our residents, staff and their families.

From our ministry's very beginning, God has been busy working through staff members at every location, not only as they continue to offer amazing care during this COVID-19 pandemic, but also as they interact with residents, lead activities, guide exercise, and lighten their days with the gift of laughter. Where else are God's children celebrating "Wacky Wednesday"?

Of course, our faithful staff should be commended for their hard work each day, and, at the Napoleon Campus, that was done through a generous donation of ice cream flurries to celebrate the workers and the Fourth of July. The Toledo Campus recognized the hard work of its staff with a luncheon, while the campus was also recognized by Lutheran Services in America as a Front Line Hero for its amazing work helping patients recover from COVID-19.



Wolf Creek Campus assisted living resident Gayle Kramer creates an original painting.



Toledo Campus Executive Director (right) clowns around with the Director of Nursing on Wacky Wednesday.



Toledo Campus staff were given a lunch to thank them for their work during the pandemic.

Johnson's Country & Ice Cream Shoppe donated ice cream flurries to staff at the Napoleon Campus.



Staff from the Labuhn Center on the Toledo Campus celebrate the recovery of a COVID-19 patient.

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Genacross employees are not forgetting to engage residents either. For Father's Day, the campuses celebrated the wonderful dads in our care. At the Wolf Creek and Napoleon campuses, fathers were recognized with notes and gifts of root beer. Add some delicious ice cream, and you get root beer floats, which were delivered one sunny afternoon to the patios of residents at our Luther Oaks senior community in Norwalk. What refreshing memories they make.

Surely it is a simple gift, but now that summer is here, how good it is for many residents to get outside again, to sit in the fresh air and sunshine, to have an opportunity to enjoy a musical program or simply to chat with a neighbor. Naturally, that time on the patio becomes even more precious when family members and other loved ones are able to come for a visit. So it is that God lightens the hearts of all with the gift of laughter and conversation.

This divine gift of nature also adds joy to young and old in other ways. Family & Youth Services young adult residents planted a garden and experienced God at work through the joy of growing flowers and vegetables. What a gift for older residents on our care campuses to plant gardens and raise vegetables, echoing what they did in their younger days.

Then there are opportunities to give back; they are gifts from God, as well. Our campuses helped couples celebrate their anniversaries, giving them special memories during this difficult time. How special it is to see residents of our Luther Hills senior community give back by pursuing a grant from Toledo Public Schools and making masks for this coming year for school staff and children. God is blessing them in their giving.

There is also so much joy in watching our nursing care and assisted living residents show off their creativity as they design beautiful crafts. In like manner, we see our youth create works of art out of simple things and, in the process, experience the blessings of God's gift of creation.

God is, indeed, at work, in the sharing, in the creativity, and in the laughter. He is in the continual providing of care on our care campuses and in the comfort of people's homes through our home health agency. What blessings they are, which may even lead us to join the psalmist, who began with a lament wondering where God was, in ending with words of praise, "I will sing to the Lord, because he has dealt bountifully with me." (Psalm 13:6).



Father's Day at the Wolf Creek Campus featured Dad's Root Beer.



The Toledo Campus assisted living patio is a fine place for a family visit.



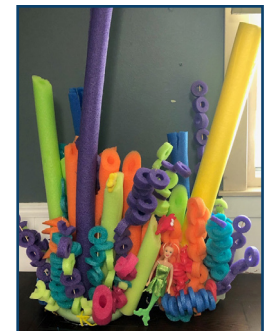
The Guitar Guy entertains Napoleon Campus assisted living residents.



Jay and Judy Kiefer celebrate their 60th anniversary in the Wolf Creek dining room.



Young adults from Family & Youth Services' East Toledo Home plant gardens.



During Ocean Week, youth made coral reefs with colorful pool noodles.

Luther Hills senior housing in Toledo received a grant for materials to make masks for Toledo Public School teachers and staff.

