



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services

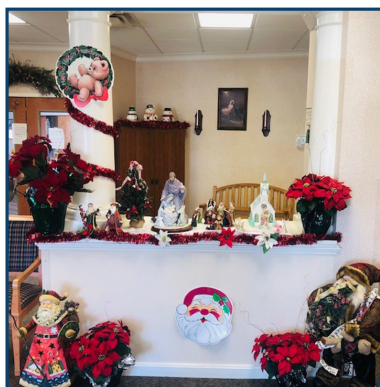


The Genacross Mission statement begins with a reminder that our commitment to providing compassionate care and services finds its inspiration in our Christian faith. It calls us to work with each other, and serve our residents, clients, and their families in faithfulness to Christ. It is also the reason that as we share images of our working and playing together, we are, in a real way, inviting our readers to see God at work in our midst.

This is also, in so many ways, exactly what we are celebrating in the birth of our Lord. In his gospel, John wrote, "...the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory" (John 1:14). He is telling us that Jesus is, in reality, God in human form assuring us that He knows us, our lives, our suffering and pain, and our joys and sorrows. His message of good news in him is that He will always be with us and will never leave us alone, even in dark, lonely, frightening, and difficult times. He has shown how we can live abundantly and faithfully, no matter what, and experience the true joy He desires for us.

During this Christmas season, so many things are being done to celebrate Jesus' birth, with special efforts being made because of the coronavirus pandemic. In a time when we are concerned about necessary social distancing, preparations for Christmas bring people together and put songs in their hearts, if not on their lips.

Decorated Christmas trees, with lights and ornaments that point heavenward, lift our spirits and bring Christmas hope to often dark and empty winter days. The angels and lighted stars that top those trees call to mind that night when the shepherds heard the good news of the



The lobby at Kettle Run senior community is festively decorated.



Wolf Creek staff members decorate one of the campus' many Christmas trees.



Resident Mary Davis poses for a fun photo at the Wolf Creek assisted living holiday party.



Chaplain Lee Genter celebrates the season with Napoleon Campus resident Anne Millen.



Youth cut out and decorate holiday cookies.



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birth of our Savior. Even decorating cookies, cut out as snowmen, snowflakes or stars, bring God's gift of joy and laughter into our hearts. Where it is possible, our chaplains lead worship and devotions, and offer moments of blessing and prayer; there is even the singing of carols.

Throughout our ministries, dedicated employees are working hard to make living in these uncertain times feel festive, warm, and inviting for residents. Decorating for the holidays has been happening at all of our locations, and activity staff members at our care campuses lead residents in creating a variety of craft projects. Meanwhile, holiday dinners for staff members and residents are being celebrated throughout the month of December.

Many congregations and other caring individuals and groups in the community are blessing residents and staff with Christmas cheer. Some people are sending encouraging cards and food to our faithful staff, who have been working so hard to protect residents and patients. At the Wolf Creek Campus, students from the University of Toledo recently had window visits with residents and staff. The students brightened spirits and the campus with some lovely holiday greetings and drawings.

Housing residents are not forgotten, either. Holiday celebrations, while done differently this year, spread good cheer. Wearing masks, social distancing, and gathering in small groups have allowed residents and staff to celebrate with catered dinners (often delivered to residents), gift bags, music, and/or treats.

To get into the spirit of the season, the youth in care at our residential settings have been working together to prepare for Christmas. The residents of the Anthony Wayne group home made their own gingerbread houses, and learned problem-solving skills while they had fun. At the Maumee Youth Center, residents collaborated on art projects to get into the holiday spirit. At other group homes, youth in care decorated Christmas cookies and trees.

God's love, lived out in activities such as these, give hope and bring laughter. God has not abandoned his own; He comes to our world with all of its brokenness in the lives of His people. As we live in faithfulness to His Son, He brings hope and healing. God is, indeed, at work in our midst.



Toledo Campus staff members decorate the Health Center lobby with Mr. and Mrs. Claus.



University of Toledo students share greetings and messages of thanks for the caring staff at the Wolf Creek Campus.



Napoleon Campus staff members are treated to a delicious holiday buffet.



Toledo Campus resident Joyce Beavers makes a miniature Christmas tree from a pine cone.



Youth in care build gingerbread houses and create a Christmas tree art project.

