



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



January 2021

At last, the hope we have been praying for is dawning, and the brightness of a return of healing and wholeness is rising above the horizon and enlightening all we do. Indeed, this new year, 2021, is finally upon us, bringing with it a new confidence that, with God's help, we really are going to get through this pandemic.

The long awaited COVID-19 vaccine is finally being administered to our residents and staff at our care campuses. How good it is to see them waiting patiently and receiving these long-awaited shots. The shots, of course, are a giant step toward protecting our residents and their caregivers. It is also concrete evidence of God at work in our midst, using the critical knowledge, resources, and hard work of so many to bring health and healing to those who have been victims of this pandemic, both physically and emotionally.

The vaccine is also a sign of all of the many amazing ways God works to care for His people, using scientists, medical professionals, those in business, as well as laborers in so many different areas of life, including those with whom we live and work. It is something we have all witnessed in various ways, on a daily basis, as our Genacross staff has worked tirelessly to provide compassionate care and services to residents and clients, throughout this pandemic and long before, in some ways very simple and in others amazingly courageous.

Looking back, the joys and sharing of Christmas love that we just celebrated and are now able to remember are also vehicles of hope and healing. Who can forget the delicious meals delivered by staff members to housing residents, or the holiday meals enjoyed by the residents



Bus driver Marvin Brock Sr. gets a vaccine at the Wolf Creek Campus.



Napoleon Campus resident Shiela Baker rolls up her sleeve for a shot.



Napoleon Campus Director of Nursing Traci Mills receives her first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



Wolf Creek Campus assisted living resident Curly Hubbard calmly receives her vaccine.



Toledo Campus assisted living residents were served an early Christmas dinner.



Covenant Harbor Service Coordinator Celest Clough takes Christmas dinners to the residents.



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on the Bethany Place, Napoleon, Toledo and Wolf Creek care campuses? In addition, staff worked hard to keep residents busy with holiday craft projects and activities. There were even a few visits from Santa. All of these, and more, are evidence of God at work among us.

Over the holidays, several Family & Youth Services' direct caregivers and youth were in isolation recovering from the virus, but healthy staff still provided encouragement, care, and support. One staff member had youth make and decorate gingerbread houses. Another made cookie dough and brought in supplies for the youth, even those in isolation, to make and decorate their own cookies. Other staff members made sure youth had plenty of presents to open for Christmas. In every case, staff members made sure the kids felt loved and safe in a time that could have been very chaotic and scary.

This employee dedication and hard work were supplemented by donations from many faithful friends. The following is a sample of some of the generosity: volunteers from Oregon Health and Welfare assembled and delivered gift baskets to Luther Hills residents; the local police department and American Legion delivered gift bags at Covenant Harbor; and Gleaners in Napoleon donated pizza, bread sticks, and soda to Alpine Village residents. In addition, First St. John Lutheran Church brightened the holiday season for Toledo Campus assisted living residents with beautiful gifts, as did St. Joan of Arc Parish for Wolf Creek Campus residents. By the way, Mr. Turner's 4th grade class at Napoleon Elementary School shared festive handmade cards with Napoleon Campus residents.

Christmas activities and meals, creative "visits" from family, donations from caring neighbors, the many contributions of activities staff, and worship and devotions led by the chaplains do so much to make the challenges of isolation a bit more bearable and offer a measure of hope. All are ways that God uses us to meet the needs of residents, and through them, we are blessed to care for each other. Perhaps we could say that receiving the vaccine makes the joy even sweeter. Through all of these, Christ the Healer is at work in our midst, giving us hope and reminding us that we are not alone.



A resident of a Family & Youth Services' group home makes holiday decorations.



A Wolf Creek Campus resident builds a gingerbread house.



Santa surprised Napoleon Campus resident Patricia Manning with a visit.



Covenant Harbor senior community in Oak Harbor received gifts from local police and the American Legion.



St. Joan of Arc Parish provided Wolf Creek Campus residents with presents.



A gift from First St. John congregation brightens the day for Toledo Campus assisted living resident Ruth Adams.



School children created Christmas cards for Napoleon Campus residents.



A family visits their loved one through the window at the Wolf Creek Campus.