



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



October 2022

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Jeff” is diabetic and had to have his foot amputated due to complications from his diabetes. After his surgery and some rehabilitation, he was discharged from the hospital and selected Genacross at Home to continue his recovery at home. Jeff is receiving nursing care, physical therapy and occupational therapy from home health staff. Meanwhile, Jeff’s family and friends built a ramp to one of the doors at his house, but it was not sturdy enough for Jeff and his wheelchair to maneuver. The Genacross at Home team requested that their social worker come out to Jeff’s house to assess other options. The social worker was able to work with a local organization, which came out and installed a brand new metal ramp. Jeff is now able to move in and out of his house independently in his wheelchair, and his home health care team reports he continues to progress well in his recovery.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

On a warm, sunny fall afternoon on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, employees and residents passing through the Health Center’s common area paused for a moment or two before quietly moving on. They had caught sight of “Sam” and “Martha” sitting upright on a sofa, both fast asleep with hands clasped together. Sam and Martha, who have been married for almost 70 years, came to the Wolf Creek Campus about six months ago. As they aged into their 80s, health issues have created difficulties for the couple. Martha was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease about a decade ago, and Sam has heart and circulatory issues. However, they were resolute in taking care of each other. Then, one night, Sam had bad cramps in his legs. When Martha tried to help him, they both fell when trying to get out of bed. They knew it was time to get help and they moved to the Wolf Creek Campus for care. Based on an assessment of their needs, Martha receives long-term nursing care in the Health Center, while Sam moved into an assisted living apartment on the campus. Living on the same campus allows the couple to see each other frequently. “She can’t say much, but we hold one another, kiss one another, and sit together,” Sam said of their daily routine.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Angela” is a short-term resident on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. She was admitted from the hospital and needed therapy services to regain her strength in order to live independently again. Angela was hesitant after admission and did not want to leave her room or participate in therapy treatments. While staff respected her wishes and gave her space for a few days, they continued to encourage and remind her of the importance of treatments. One day Angela took a big step and agreed to head down to the therapy gym. Two weeks later, she was a completely new woman – very active with her treatments and recovering at a rapid pace. Not only does she enjoy and work hard during her therapy treatments, but she also participates in almost every activity offered on the campus. Staff members truly believe Angela just needed encouragement and reassurance that they could enhance her life and enable her to recover successfully.

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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FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

A year ago, requirements for the Family First Prevention Services Act became mandatory in Ohio. These requirements changed the way out-of-home care worked, with a strong emphasis being placed on keeping foster youth in home-like settings. Since Genacross Family & Youth Services specializes in out-of-home care, staff had to get creative since they were not able to offer the Partners in Treatment weekend program due to COVID-19 restrictions. This program focuses on family reunification. In response, Family & Youth clinicians have increased family therapy, often holding telehealth sessions to help decrease transportation costs for the families. In fiscal year 2022, Genacross had 26 youth discharged from their group homes. Of those 26 youth, 17 went to live with biological, foster or adoptive families. One additional young man graduated from high school and moved into his own home, with the Department of Development Disabilities arranging for a provider to administer homemaker/personal care services. Another youth transitioned to the East Toledo group home in order to live in a smaller, more home-like environment after being served in a more restrictive setting for seven years. Currently, across all Family & Youth programs, therapists are working with 10 biological families and three adoptive families to provide family therapy in preparation for a transition into a home setting.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Sally” lives at our Luther Grove affordable senior community in east Toledo and was having an allergic reaction after she moved into her apartment. She spoke to the housing manager and a maintenance staff member about her concerns. After some discussions, the staff asked Sally if she thought removing the carpeting in her apartment and replacing it with vinyl flooring would help with her allergies. Sally agreed that it would and the switch was made in Sally’s apartment. Almost instantly, Sally experienced relief from her allergies. However, the change created other issues. Sally moves around using a walker, and she was having problems maneuvering her walker over the doorway thresholds in her apartment without tripping. After she shared this concern with maintenance, a staff member worked with the flooring vendor to find a different threshold and researched ways to install it flush to the ground. Now that the new vinyl flooring and redesigned thresholds are completed, Sally experiences no allergic reactions in her home and is able to move easily throughout her apartment with her walker.



FOUNDATION

Genacross Lutheran Services held a groundbreaking ceremony in mid-September for the first of three senior adaptive pocket parks to be built for the residents at its Luther Crest and Luther Woods joint campus in west Toledo on Holland Sylvania Road. A pocket park is a small park within a community, usually under one acre in size, which is often created on irregular pieces of land. They serve as a focal point of activity and interest, and, in this case, to improve the quality of life for residents. At Luther Crest and Luther Woods senior communities, the pocket park project was created to offer Genacross residents socialization opportunities and overall health and wellness experiences. The first park to be built will focus on the environment to promote relaxation and healing. This park has been fully funded by Medical Mutual of Ohio and an anonymous fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation represented by donor advisor Chuck Stocking. Genacross is partnering with the Toledo Natural Science Technology Academy to have student involvement with the creation of the Environment Pocket Park. The academy has agreed to provide guidance with the plantings, and students will be educating the residents on the plant choices. The Foundation is excited to help make this park a reality for our residents.



**Environment
Pocket Park**