

The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CVIII No. 3 SUMMER/FALL 2022

EMPLOYEES SHINE AT ANNUAL STAFF APPRECIATION EVENT

Genacross Lutheran Services held its annual ministry-wide Staff Appreciation and Recognition event on August 11 at Fifth Third Field in downtown Toledo. Nearly 70 employees, board members, and their guests had the opportunity to enjoy dinner, an awards ceremony, and the Toledo Mud Hens game vs. the Omaha Storm Chasers.

"We are so appreciative of all that our employees do for our residents and their family members," stated Jeff Schulte, Vice President for Human Resources. "This event is something we look forward to each year, because it recognizes employees who really make a difference."

The Rev. Logan Scheiwe, member of the Genacross Lutheran Services Board of Directors, was Master of Ceremonies and kept the evening's agenda moving. The award presentations began with 19 employees being honored for their service, ranging from 15 to 36 years.

Years of Service Awards

The following Family & Youth Services employees were recognized: Rachel Holland, 15 years; Michael Bowden, Tim Davis, Tara Fisher, Albert Hilt Jr., and Dana Sanders, all 20 years; and Amy Dougan and Aimee Kaminski, both 25 years. In addition, from Ministry Support, Jeff Schulte

was honored for 15 years, and John Henry and Lorinda Schalk were recognized for 20 years of service.

Honorees from the Wolf Creek Campus included: Juan Leguin, Cristina Parker, and Jane Sharp, all 15 years; Kimberly Fitzpatrick, 20 years; and Lisa Jones and Bernadette Michaux, both 25 years. Genacross also recognized two Napoleon Campus employees for more than 30 years of service: Janet Westhoven for 34 years and Jane Schnipke for 36 years.



Genacross honors its Heroes of Caring for their dedication to residents, patients, clients and their families.



Wolf Creek Executive Director Katie Miller and President/CEO Rick Marshall recognize Bernadette Michaux for 25 years of service.

Heroes of Caring

Following the years of service awards, each Genacross ministry honored its Heroes of Caring, an award category introduced last year to celebrate team members who stepped up in amazing ways during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The award continues this year, celebrating outstanding employees who are dedicated to providing excellent care and service and who exemplify the Mission, Vision, and Core Values of the organization.

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OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey.

OUR VISION

Through our faith and work, we strive to be a forward-thinking, compassionate organization that improves the lives of current and future generations.

OUR VALUES

Faithfulness to Christ

Equality and Justice

Wholeness of Life

Integrity

Quality of Service

Stewardship of Resources

OUR MINISTRIES

Genacross Lutheran Services

Napoleon Campus

Genacross Lutheran Services

Wolf Creek Campus

Genacross Home & Community

Based Services

Genacross at Home

Genacross Family &

Youth Services

Genacross Lutheran Services

Foundation

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A note from

RICK MARSHALL

President and CEO



Committed to Youth

I was reminded recently of the vital need for our youth services, as I spent time with some of our Genacross Family & Youth Services team. Since our inception in 1860, Genacross has provided care for children. For many years, we served them in an orphanage setting surrounded by the support of Lutheran congregations. When the Lutheran Orphans' Home closed in 1964, programming then moved toward smaller residential settings, but our commitment to serving youth in need continues today.

Ninety-five percent of the youth we serve are in the custody of the state when they come to Genacross. On average, youth have had **17 placements with other organizations or programs before they find their way to us**. One of the differentiators for us is Genacross maintains a no-eject, no-reject policy. If we determine we have the resources to serve a youth, we will not discharge them for behavioral issues.

I am told by our team members that the youth we serve, who are as young as six years old and up through the age to graduate from high-school, will often "test" us on that policy. However, our committed team sticks with them. At times it can take a few weeks, but when the youth realize that they will not be sent away, then real progress begins to happen. Trust is built, walls are broken down, and a life begins to change.

We have seen an increase in demand for our services as the opioid epidemic in Ohio has torn families apart and led to the abuse and neglect of more young people. While the average length of stay at Genacross is 18 months, we have served several youth for up to 10 years. As we guide youth through their programs, our ultimate goal is reunification with their family or adoption. When youth leave Genacross, we continue to follow them for six months after discharge to help ensure their continued success.

The need is great. The sad news is that Genacross has to turn away over 50 referrals per month due to capacity constraints. We continue to look at how we can add capacity so that no young person goes without the help they need.

I applaud our Genacross team for their commitment. The work is hard, mentally, and often physically as well. We serve because we are called and the difficult work is rewarded when we see lives changed. Thank you for supporting Genacross as we work together to provide compassionate care for youth.

Blessings,

Employees Shine - continued from front page

Heroes of Caring award recipients included: Regina Garcia from Genacross at Home; Terry Jackson, Randy McCarthy, Jessica Queen, Alisha Royster and Claudia Shiell from Family & Youth Services; Karie Jahna and Robert Trent Sr. from Home & Community Based Services; Amber Cocke, Tim Lyons, Susan Moore, Rebecca Newell, and Yolanda Perez from the Napoleon Campus; and Kathy Jones, Holly Reason, Frederick Rickman, Natasha Ruth, and Marcela Thomas from the Wolf Creek Campus.

Genacross Employee Awards

To wrap up the evening, the annual employee awards were presented to several deserving individuals. Rebecca Newell, a State Tested Nursing Assistant at the Napoleon Campus for almost 17 years, received the **Minister to Others** award. "Rebecca cares about the residents more than anything and ensures they are safe and well taken



Napoleon Campus employee Rebecca Newell (center) is the 2022 Minister to Others.



Napoleon Campus employee Tim Lyons (center) is the 2022 Servant Leader.

care of," her nomination said. "She does whatever it takes to get her job done and puts the resident's needs first," it continues. She was also praised for showing compassion and love to all residents.

Tim Lyons, a Maintenance Technician at the Napoleon Campus, was honored as the **Servant Leader**. Mr. Lyon's nomination described his dedication to serving not only the residents, but also the families and his coworkers. "He spends five days a week taking several residents to dialysis and other appointments, including dialysis on Saturdays, without ever complaining." It continues, "He will drop what he is doing to help a coworker with a task and is always willing to assist where he can." Furthermore, his nomination said he has a great love and rapport with each resident he serves, is always in a good mood, and is willing to offer a listening ear to someone in need.

The final award of the evening was the **Employee of the Year**, which is presented to the employee who embodies the Genacross Mission and Values to the fullest extent.

This year the award went to two individuals: Regina Garcia, a Registered Nurse with Genacross at Home, and Terry Jackson, Team Leader at the Maumee Youth Center for Family & Youth Services.

Ms. Garcia's nomination focuses a great deal on the positive energy she brings to her work. "She helps the Genacross at Home team achieve excellent energy daily through her great personality," it stated. "She is always willing to help any Genacross team member



Employee of the Year Regina Garcia (center) celebrates her award.

out, has a collaborative mindset, remains professional with team members and patients, and is hardworking." The nomination goes on to say that Regina's empathy for everyone shines through in her daily work.



Terry Jackson shares the 2022 Employee of the Year award.

Terry Jackson's nomination for Employee of the Year states that "Terry has a calm and compassionate approach to any youth he engages." It continues, "He treats the youth we serve like his own and works hard to help them meet their goals and improve in daily functioning areas of their lives." It describes a steadfast

advocate for the youth in care that "in addition to being our strongest, most consistent and supportive staff" also does a lot for his co-workers. Mr. Jackson mentors most of the new staff hired for the Maumee Youth Center and picks up a multitude of shifts. "Everyone knows they can count on Terry at a moment's notice."

Congratulations to all the members of the Genacross family recognized during the evening's festivities. Similar to the walk-off homerun that gave the Mud Hens the game win, these employees give it their all every day so that Genacross can "win" in caring for others.

GENACROSS SELLS BETHANY PLACE SENIOR COMMUNITY

On August 1, the Genacross Lutheran Services sale of Bethany Place senior community in Fremont, Ohio, to Alpine House of Fremont, LLC, became official. Alpine House has been operating this location as its own property since July 1.

“We are excited to announce that the residents living at Bethany Place will continue to be served with housing and services by the new owners,” said Amanda Schroeder, Senior Vice President of Home & Community Based Services. Alpine House has plans to convert the entire building to assisted living by January 1, 2023.



Bethany Place senior community in Fremont, Ohio, will continue to serve residents under new ownership.

Since purchasing Bethany Place in 1999, Genacross operated the market-rate apartments for older adults who might not qualify for lower income housing. Service coordination was offered to help residents age in place. In 2014, the continuum of care was expanded to include assisted living apartments, which enabled residents to remain living at Bethany Place as their needs changed.

“The Genacross Board of Directors was interested in finding a new provider who would invest capital into the building while continuing to serve older adults,” President/CEO Rick Marshall explained. “As a result of the sale, Genacross will be able to focus on investing in other communities we serve.”

“We have been blessed with more than 20 years of serving the Fremont community through the senior living services provided at Bethany Place,” Mrs. Schroeder added.

Genacross will continue to meet the needs of individuals around Fremont in multiple ways. Affordable independent living apartments for older adults are available at Covenant Harbor senior community in Oak Harbor and Luther Meadow senior community in Gibsonburg. Genacross at Home will also continue to provide home health care to patients in the comfort of their own homes in Sandusky and Ottawa counties.

Wholeness of Life Core Value guides Genacross caregivers

The Genacross value of “Wholeness of Life” means that employees care for residents, their families, and each other with awareness of the whole person, not just physical needs.

The Biblical Exodus journey is a foundational story for people of both the Christian and Jewish faiths. God rescues his people from slavery in Egypt and leads them on a 40-year journey through the wilderness to the land God promised their ancestor Abraham. During this journey, God cares for His people, shapes their identities, and provides for them. How God provides for them reveals the concept of wholeness of life.

God provides for the physical needs of the wanderers, who received a bread-like substance called manna every day. When water is unavailable, God makes water flow

from a rock. He protects and provides for the community's physical safety. However, God does even more.

God appears as a cloud before the travelers, providing presence and comfort amid a harsh terrain. God sets boundaries for the community with his rules and laws. He provides identity as God's people share in rituals, common projects, and difficult times. Furthermore, God provides hope with a promise of a future different from the wandering present.

At Genacross, those who provide care and services are called to do more than provide for physical accommodations and needs. They mirror God's care for the whole person throughout life's journey, providing comfort, meaningful activities, a sense of community, and hope.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP

Genacross Lutheran Services announces the appointment of Katie Miller as Executive Director for the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Mrs. Miller will oversee the daily operations, community outreach, and business development of the continuing care retirement community in Holland, Ohio.



Katie Miller, LNHA

"I look forward to working closely with this team to provide a high-quality, safe and comfortable living environment for our residents," said Mrs. Miller, who became a licensed nursing home administrator in March 2022. "Genacross has always been such a welcoming and warm place to be, and I hope to build on the compassionate care and services we offer the community."

Mrs. Miller started her career in health care as a state-tested nursing assistant while she was in college. When

she became a physical therapy assistant (PTA) in 2010, she worked as a therapist and then as a director of rehabilitation for nine years. She has experience in home health, skilled nursing, and long-term care. She also has been an adjunct PTA instructor at Owens Community College in Toledo and Professional Skills Institute in Maumee.

"Katie, who previously served as a physical therapy assistant at the Wolf Creek Campus, returns with many years of senior care experience under her belt, mostly as a therapist and therapy director," stated Jeff Barror, Director of Operations. "Her familiarity with the workings of the campus will serve her well, and we are excited to welcome her to the Genacross family."

Mrs. Miller has a bachelor's degree in health care administration from Columbia Southern University in Alabama and an associate degree in applied science as a PTA from Professional Skills Institute. She resides in Northwood, Ohio, with her husband, JC, and their three children, Anaijah, Roman and Mylah.

Faithful couple makes Napoleon Campus their home

For the past three years, Herman and Ruth Wentzel have lived together in one of the Bavarian Village independent living condominiums on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. The couple, who married on July 26, 1949, recently celebrated their 73rd wedding anniversary.

Their love and faith for each other and in their Savior Jesus Christ has never diminished. Dr. Wentzel, a retired teacher and professor, worked at several Lutheran schools and colleges over the years. Mrs. Wentzel was a stay-at-home mom while raising their three children – Kathy, Karen and Steve, who serves as the organist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Napoleon.

Their ties to the Lutheran church and community are strong, and those bonds are part of the reason they chose to live at the Napoleon Campus. "We moved to Bavarian Village to be close to St. Paul Lutheran Church, so we could attend our home church's worship services and Bible classes," Mrs. Wentzel explained. They also like living at Bavarian Village because, "we don't have to worry about mowing the lawn and doing maintenance."

After three years of living at Bavarian Village, Dr. Wentzel's health needs necessitated more care and he moved to the Health Center on the campus. He receives physical therapy and cognitive stimulation by the caregivers in the Health Center.

With the Napoleon Campus offering many levels of care, the transition was easier than it might have been otherwise. Mrs. Wentzel does not have far to go to visit her true love. She visits him daily in the Health Center and always makes sure that they part with a kiss before she returns home.



One of the reasons Herman and Ruth Wentzel chose the Napoleon Campus was for its ties to their home church.

DONORS SUPPORT GENACROSS ON FIRST DAY OF GIVING

Thank you to all the generous donors who made the first-ever Genacross Day of Giving a huge success. Because of the support of our matching gift sponsors, Plante Moran, RCO Law, and Terry L. Bossert, and the generosity of our individual donors, the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal of \$10,000 and raised \$13,500. Thank you to all our donors!

Every donor made a difference. Gifts of financial support allow Genacross to continue providing much needed services across generations in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan including: youth group homes, mental health and education services, affordable housing for seniors, assisted living, memory support, and skilled nursing care.

Whether giving to senior living, affordable housing, therapy services, home health, or family and youth services, reasons for giving abound. Donors give for a variety of reasons, and the Foundation will ensure that each donor's intent is met.

"As a corporate sponsor, it was important for us to be able to give back to an organization that gives to the community so regularly," stated Marissa Fitzpatrick, Attorney at RCO Law.

Two other generous donors are the parents of a resident, and they give in honor of the spiritual care provided to their son. A church gives to provide a baseball outing to Genacross youth group home residents. An employee of Genacross gives back to provide birdseed for senior residents' feeders. Friends donate in memory of a deceased loved one, and some families remember Genacross with a planned estate gift.

Every donor has a story and a reason for supporting the mission of Genacross Lutheran Services. "We love hearing these stories and hope you will consider sharing your story of giving with us here at the Foundation," said Executive Director Mike George.

Donors can share their story on Facebook by scanning this QR code. They can also email a story to Patty Slupecki at PSlupecki@Genacross.org or share a story over the phone with her at 419.861.4965.



It's not too late...any donor who missed the first annual Day of Giving still has the opportunity to give in support of the Genacross mission. Please visit <https://genacrosslutheranservices.org/foundation/donate/>.

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IN MEMORY OF

April 1 - June 30, 2022

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April 1 - June 30, 2022

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GENACROSS PROVIDES HONOR FLIGHT BREAKFAST

In the early morning hours of June 7, staff members from the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus and Genacross Lutheran Services Ministry Support office had the opportunity to provide breakfast for the more than 80 veterans and their guardians participating in the Flag City Honor Flight, the organization's first event since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

"It was a real honor to be able to show our gratitude to these military heroes," stated Jeff Barror, Director of Operations. "Our team did a fantastic job of cooking and serving a tasty and nutritious meal for the veterans to start their long day."

The free one-day Honor Flight event flies veterans to Washington, D.C. to tour the memorials built in honor of their service to our country. The employees who volunteered enjoyed the experience so much that Genacross plans to serve breakfast again for the next Flag City Honor Flight to be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2022.

Genacross team members cooked and served breakfast for the Flag City Honor Flight attendees.



Veterans and their guardians line up for a healthy meal before boarding their flight.

Wolf Creek food service employee Dameko Perry smiles while making scrambled eggs for the crowd.



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