



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



November 2022

GENACROSS AT HOME

"Sarah," who has several chronic health conditions, has been with Genacross at Home for skilled nursing services related to wound care, routine labs draws and other medical needs. She also has a very involved son who helps in her care, but he works full time and has his own family. Sarah had been maintaining her health in her home for several months, but experienced a decline and was admitted to the hospital. The hospital spoke to Genacross at Home, Sarah, and her son about the potential for hospice needing to take over Sarah's care. Sarah and her son did not agree with this assessment and were determined to get her back home with Genacross at Home caring for Sarah. While in the hospital, Sarah had several setbacks and was put on a ventilator. Eventually, Sarah was able to come off the vent, but she needed assistance with her tracheostomy care at home. Genacross at Home had the skilled nursing staff to perform the needed care, as well as train Sarah and her son. Sarah is now happy and back at home, providing her own care under the direction of Genacross at Home nursing staff.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Recently, "June," a resident of Genacross' Luther Haus senior community in Temperance, Michigan, went to her housing site's service coordinator because she was upset. She had received some difficult news and needed the coordinator's help to resolve the issues. June had received word that she was going to have to pay a significant amount for a prescription that she could not afford. The pharmaceutical company had denied her initial request to cover it, but said she may be an exception and needed to fill out paperwork to be considered for coverage. June had also learned that the Community Living Program through the local Area Agency on Aging was cutting much of the care she is receiving due to budget cuts. June felt very overwhelmed and hopeless.

The service coordinator helped June fill out the papers to apply to get the cost of her prescription covered. She also encouraged June to apply to the Monroe County Opportunity Program (MCOP), a Michigan Medicaid program, to get an aide to help with her daily needs. The coordinator also suggested June ride the local transit service to the grocery store instead of having her aide take her, thus giving the aide more time to assist June with cleaning and laundry. A few days later, June was approved for her prescription drug coverage. With the service coordinator's help, she also finished filling out her MCOP application. The application has been submitted, and they are waiting to hear back. June feels much better and more capable of handling future issues with the coordinator's guidance.



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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WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

For many years, the prayer of “Abigail,” who was living independently with serious health issues, had been “Show me the way. Give me the voice I need.” She had a powerful gift of adaptation, having learned how to live for the past 25 years with limited mobility and a power chair. However, the isolation she experienced living on her own was having an effect on her physical and mental health. “I didn’t come in contact with too many people, except my aides,” she recalled. About a year ago, Abigail became ill and went to the hospital for treatment. After a hospital stay and time spent at a rehabilitation center, where she fell and broke her leg, Abigail decided to move into an assisted living apartment at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Living on the Wolf Creek Campus has meant healing for Abigail’s whole person. Her medications are administered and meals are cooked for her, and she is flourishing with those supports. She has succeeded in her rehabilitation goals, and she is opening up and socializing with other residents. She goes to the dining room for meals and the chapel for worship. She also attends such activities as Bible study and bingo. For Abigail, the Wolf Creek Campus has meant more opportunities and independence, while still having a helping hand when she needs it.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

The Genacross Family & Youth Services staff at the Oregon Group Home has implemented daily exercise to improve the physical health of the youth served there. Every day, staff members and youth walk the nearby Genacross property. This trail leads them from the Oregon Group Home around the Luther Hills senior community and back home. The youth look forward to the daily walk, sometimes even more than the staff. On days when the weather is pleasant, the youth enjoy waving to the Luther Hills residents and occasionally engaging in conversation. These daily walks inspired the Luther Hills residents to provide a Halloween party for the youth. They planned a pizza party for the youth and staff of the Oregon home, and it was a wonderful success. The old and young enjoyed eating pizza together, and each youth received a treat bag to take home. This act of kindness provided an opportunity for the youth to practice the social skills that staff teach them on a daily basis. In addition, it inspired the youth to give back as well. They are hoping to work with staff to plan future activities with the residents of Luther Hills.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Evelyn” was nervous about moving into an assisted living apartment at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus, but as her abilities declined, she recognized that she needed to make the move. Her siblings lived closer to the Napoleon Campus, and it brought her comfort to be near them. Evelyn fell in love with the campus when she toured, and she put her deposit in the same day. She had been a nurse’s aide in her work life, devoting her life to helping others, so she was very particular about where she was going to live. While at Alpine Village assisted living, she appreciated how well the staff took care of her needs and participated in various activities. As it turned out, she did not live at the Napoleon Campus very long before passing on, but staff was able to work closely with the family to make sure Evelyn’s care was the best possible.

FOUNDATION

Recently, Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation Executive Director Mike George shared a few words to open a remembrance service at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. His words reminded attendees that Genacross offers residents and their families a spiritual harbor during times of personal difficulties. He was honored to speak at the service remembering those who had passed away over the course of the past year at the Wolf Creek Campus. For the families gathered together at the service, Chaplain Greg Olsen invited them to honor symbolically those who had passed. As people entered the chapel, they were encouraged to take a brightly colored strip of cloth from those arrayed on a table. As the service progressed, the chaplain asked each family member to come forward and drape the cloth over a string stretched across the sanctuary, creating a mural of colors to honor those they had lost. It was reminiscent of the way God sent the rainbow to let Noah know life, not death, would be God’s final Word. The service visibly moved many in attendance. Genacross has provided care, services, and comfort for 162 years and will continue to do so in the future through the loyal support of donors and benefactors.