



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



December 2022

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

After a fall at home, “Cynthia” had extensive shoulder surgery. Under normal circumstances, her therapy would have been outpatient and rather straightforward, but Cynthia’s apartment being up three flights of stairs presented a challenge. Even before her fall, Cynthia had trouble climbing the stairs, using her arms to help steady and propel herself. Now one of those arms was in a sling. She really did not like the idea of doing inpatient rehabilitation at a nursing care facility either. She worried about cleanliness, and if the staff would be nice to her. However, there really was no other option for her recovery. This was Cynthia’s mindset when she arrived at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, but the campus exceeded her expectations and put her mind to rest. She found it clean and the nurses kind. She even considered the food great. Best of all, Cynthia made swift progress with step work in therapy. Her confidence grew in her ability to go up and down steps. When Cynthia discharged to home, those three flights of stairs awaited her – the true test. “I got up the steps,” she reported. “First try! I didn’t even have to stop on the landings to rest.” As with any post-surgical patient, Cynthia has plenty of appointments and continued shoulder therapy awaiting her. The stairs, however, will not be an issue.



## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Rick” requested to be transferred to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after not having a good experience at his previous rehabilitation facility. The Napoleon Campus team was confident that they could serve his needs better. Rick, who had recently been diagnosed with a new medical condition, and his family were trying to figure out how to adapt to his diagnosis moving forward. On Rick’s first day at the Napoleon Campus, he met with the director of nursing (DON) and medical director. During that initial meeting, the DON made Rick smile, and his wife said that was the first time he had smiled in weeks. Rick worked hard with the therapy team to get stronger and learn techniques for adapting to his condition when he returned home. While initially he was reserved and kept to himself, he began coming out of his room to talk with fellow residents and staff. Rather quickly, Rick became one of the most upbeat residents on the short-term rehabilitation wing. The social worker and nursing staff worked closely with the family to prepare them for Rick’s transition to home. While it was a big celebration when Rick left to return home, it was also bittersweet for the staff who would greatly miss him.

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.

# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

## HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Over the month of November, there were many Thanksgiving celebrations throughout the Genacross senior independent living communities. At Luther Haus senior community in Temperance, Michigan, a potluck-style thanksgiving was held for residents. The service coordinator supplied the turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy and punch for the residents. Everyone else brought a dish to share. "I had a few residents say that they were happy with the turnout at our Thanksgiving potluck," the service coordinator said. "They were so excited about cooking their special dishes and sharing sides at the meal." A variation of the potluck Thanksgiving meal was held at many Genacross housing sites. At one site, staff even prepared a traditional feast and delivered it hot and fresh to the residents' apartments. Genacross residents benefit tremendously by having managers and service coordinators on site who work hard to ensure residents are happy and healthy. During the holiday season, it can be difficult for residents who do not have families nearby. Spreading a little cheer speaks directly to the Genacross Core Values, especially Wholeness of Life, and helps make each holiday a memorable one for residents.

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

One of the goals of the staff and therapists at Genacross Family & Youth Services is to teach clients, both youth and young adults, to live their lives with empathy and compassion for others. Through role modeling, role-playing and therapy group work, staff members strive to teach these individuals how to look at situations and the world through the eyes of another person. While it is an ongoing series of teachable moments, one of the therapists working with the youth at the Wynn, Oregon and East Toledo group homes made a point of using Veterans Day as a focal point. During her group therapy sessions, she and other staff talked with the youth about what it means to be a veteran and the importance of honoring those who served and put their lives at risk so that Americans can live free and protected. The youth then spent time making cards and posters using their artistic skills with this new understanding about veterans. The therapist was able to have cookies and drinks donated for a special event on Veterans Day. Staff members and the therapist transported the youth to a veteran's building in Toledo, where they served refreshments and spent time talking with the veterans to hear first-hand what it means to serve in the armed forces. They youth also had the opportunity to thank them personally for their service.



## GENACROSS AT HOME

"Betty" experienced several medical complications a little over a year ago. When she left the hospital, she was referred to Genacross at Home. Betty, who lives with her son, came home with IV antibiotics and needed assistance with caring for herself and teaching her son how to help with her colostomy and wound care needs. The Genacross at Home nurses began her care and health education immediately. Betty did well at first, but she has had several setbacks over the past months that caused her re-admittance to the hospital. More recently, Betty's health has improved. She and her son have also become more proficient in meeting her care needs. These factors led to Betty being discharged from Genacross at Home care, as she feels up to the challenge of caring for herself with her son's help.

## FOUNDATION

Recently, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Northwest Ohio Chapter, held its annual Northwest Ohio National Philanthropy Day luncheon. Individuals attending the luncheon were asked to bring personal hygiene items to donate to local nonprofits. The Northwest Ohio National Philanthropy Day Committee graciously donated items collected to Genacross Family & Youth Services for use in our youth group homes. Some of the personal hygiene items collected included shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, soap and lotion. Keep in mind that the youth who come into care with Genacross normally have no personal belongings and often no family to care for them. They come to Genacross as young as 6 years old and stay as long as needed to address their physical, mental, and emotional issues. The Family & Youth Services director was overwhelmed by the generous donation of personal care items. What a thoughtful and impactful way to carry out the spirit of philanthropy in northwest Ohio! The Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation is always grateful for donations that help advance the mission of Genacross ministries.