

# The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CVIII No. 4 CHRISTMAS 2022

**A CHILD  
HAS BEEN  
BORN FOR US.  
A SON IS GIVEN  
TO US:  
AUTHORITY RESTS  
UPON HIM.  
HE IS NAMED  
JESUS!**

*Merry Christmas*

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS BEGINS ASSISTED LIVING ROOM UPDATES

Renovations to the assisted living apartments on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus have begun, and both staff and residents are excited about the changes that are happening.

"While only a handful of apartments are finished at this time, we are thrilled with the results we have seen," said Katie Miller, Executive Director of the Wolf Creek Campus. "They represent a fresh, new look for our community."

The renovations include new flooring, fresh paint schemes, updated window treatments, and new lighting.

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*The renovated apartments are light and modern looking.*

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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*



## Future of Senior Care

As all of us age, we want to live independently as long as possible. This desire, coupled with advanced technology and services, are enabling that possibility for more and more older adults. As Genacross Lutheran Services looks toward the future of senior care, we are strategically shifting our service mix down the continuum of services toward less restrictive settings.

Genacross has been recognized for our award-winning service coordination in our affordable housing communities. This program, known as Senior Connect, links our residents to community-based services that address their health care needs as well as other social determinants of health. Social determinants include items like home safety, transportation and nutrition.

Over the next few years, Genacross has plans to increase the number of independent living communities serving seniors. By wrapping services around our residents, they can continue to thrive as they age in place. Meaningful activities, on-site health care, monitoring through technology and community connections will enable us to address the evolving needs of residents as they age.

Of course, this will not negate the need for higher levels of care on occasion. Assisted living will continue to play a prominent role as an individual's needs advance beyond that which can be addressed in independent living. Often this will involve care and programming for those with Alzheimer's and other memory issues. By focusing on programs specifically designed for memory care, Genacross will be able to maximize the quality of life for individuals and bring peace of mind to their families.

Finally, we will likely see a decline in the number of skilled nursing home beds. With care being delivered effectively in less restrictive settings, skilled nursing will be utilized more for short-term rehabilitation stays or more difficult end-of-life situations. Genacross has recently reduced the size of our skilled nursing facility on our Wolf Creek Campus, downsizing it from 120 to 66 beds. The reduction does a number of positive things. It allows for more efficient operation as the residents and patients are now on one floor. The change also allows us to dramatically reduce the amount of outside agency nursing staffing required. The reduction in agency staffing improves the quality of care while saving money.

The care of older adults has evolved dramatically since we began serving this population in the early 1900s. Genacross will continue to direct our services to meet the changing needs of our seniors and their families.

Blessings,

[GenacrossLutheranServices.org](http://GenacrossLutheranServices.org)

## MAKING CHRISTMAS SPECIAL FOR YOUTH SERVED

**When you think about the Christmas season**, what do you imagine? Can you hear the Christmas carols and feel the excitement in the air? Can you smell the cookies baking in the kitchen and the big Christmas meal cooking? Do you hear your family laughing and talking in the family room? What about all of your holiday traditions? There are so many great memories and feelings that this special time of year brings to mind for most people.

Now imagine not having ever been able to experience some or any of these amazing things. Envision being placed in a foster home or group home where you do not know anyone, and it is your fifth placement in a year. Imagine not having ever experienced the excitement of Christmas morning with presents under the tree and knowing Santa had brought you something special.

“Unfortunately, this is the experience of many of the kids served by Genacross Family & Youth Services,” said Executive Director Katie Zawisza. “So, team members always want to make the holidays extra special and give the kids an opportunity to truly enjoy Christmas and create positive and lasting memories together.”

The homes are decorated abundantly, and each one has a Christmas tree full of ornaments, lights, and garland. Every

child creates a wish list of toys and items they would love to receive. These lists are sent to generous donors, and staff buy special items for the kids as well.



Everything is wrapped and set out so the children get to wake up and truly experience Christmas morning. They take turns opening presents and sharing in the excitement. Then, the staff at each home prepares a home-cooked Christmas meal, where the smells help to create strong memories for each youth. The children spend the day playing with their new toys, having fun with each other, playing games, and enjoying their meal. Christmas cookies top off the evening before bedtime.

“We want them to take these wonderful memories when they leave us and either return home or go to their forever homes,” Mrs. Zawisza said.

## Assisted living updates - continued from front page

In addition, the assisted living apartments now feature stainless steel appliances, dark oak cabinetry, and updated bathrooms with walk-in showers.



*Updates to the kitchenette and bathroom are part of the assisted living apartment renovations.*

“I absolutely love my new apartment!” said Nancy Churchill, a resident who makes her home in assisted living. “I love the colors and the decoration; it matches all of my wall hangings.”

“The renovated apartments are modern and welcoming,” Mrs. Miller said. “We want a warm and comfortable home for our current residents, as well as an attractive living option for potential residents to call home.”

The Wolf Creek Campus has one- or two-bedroom assisted living apartments available at this time. Through December 31, 2022, the campus is running an assisted living move-in special where new private pay residents can save up to \$6,000 on their first six full months’ rent.

Interested individuals should call 419.861.2233 to get more details or schedule a tour.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMES HOME TO NAPOLEON CAMPUS

**It has been a year** since Casey Amonette became the Executive Director of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. During that time, she has led the campus out of the COVID-19 pandemic, built a strong management team, and helped fill many open clinical positions at the Napoleon Campus.

Becoming Executive Director of the Napoleon Campus is a homecoming of sorts for Mrs. Amonette. She grew up in nearby Liberty Center, she worked as a state-tested nursing assistant (STNA) at the Napoleon Campus for a couple of years after high school, and her grandmother called the campus home for seven years.

"It was while working as an STNA after high school that I really developed my love for older adults," Mrs. Amonette explained. "It's been a blessing to come here to work and bring comfort to our residents and their families, but nothing beats having the honor of seeing old friends and getting to care for their loved ones."

As Executive Director, Mrs. Amonette oversees the daily operations, community outreach, and business development

of the Napoleon Campus. She has a bachelor's degree in technical and applied studies from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, and a master's degree in gerontology from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.



Casey Amonette

As part of her studies for her master's degree, she completed the Administrator in Training (AIT) program at various Genacross ministries from June through December 2020. She became a licensed nursing home administrator in November 2021. Prior to becoming Executive Director in December 2021, she served as Activity Director at the Napoleon Campus.

"One of my favorite parts of being Executive Director is problem-solving with families," said Mrs. Amonette, who resides in Swanton, Ohio, with her husband, Dan'o, and their son, Viktor. "Helping our residents through the transitions in care and making them feel like family members on the campus is very satisfying."

## Wholeness of Life value embraces more than the physical body

**A**s the early Church grew, many people brought their own pre-existing beliefs to the Christian movement. Among these was the idea that the physical was somehow bad or unholy; that true Godliness, and thus Jesus, must be without physical form. When the early followers of Jesus recalled stories of Jesus eating, drinking, and sharing the joys and sorrows of human life, they embraced the idea of his physicality.

Therefore, in this Christmas season, we celebrate the physical birth of Jesus – God joining human beings not in power and strength, but in weakness and helplessness as a little baby. Inspired by the Christian faith, we at Genacross respond to the Gospel by caring for the physical needs of those requiring support and affirmation of dignity: from young people to elders.

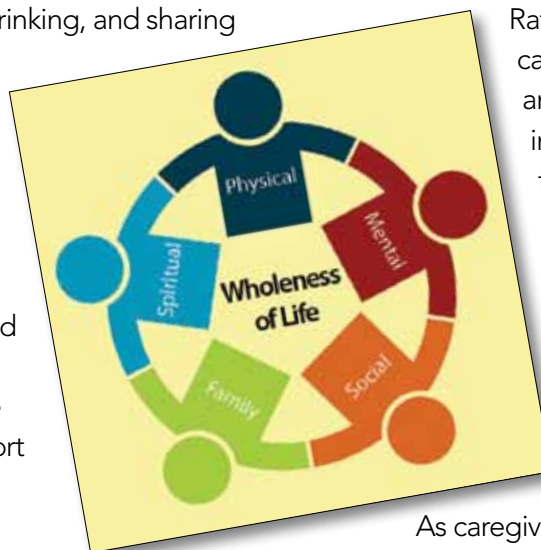
In the present age, the practice of caregiving often embraces a belief that it is enough to tend to the bodies

of persons only. Healing and life itself are diminished to physical inputs of square footage, calories consumed, and caregiving hours expended. Employees at Genacross Lutheran Services, however, demonstrate caregiving is more than a cold equation of ever-more-efficient physicality.

Rather, Genacross encourages each caregiver to tend to the spiritual and social needs of residents and invites each member congregation to participate in the ministry of Genacross.

"Wholeness of life" as a Core Value reflects the belief that the people Genacross cares for are more than just physical beings. They are also mental beings, spiritual beings, family beings and social beings.

As caregivers, that requires being intentional in the way they deal with residents and patients in order to foster healing of the whole person, not just part of them.



## GENACROSS BREAKS GROUND ON POCKET PARK

**G**enacross Lutheran Services held a groundbreaking ceremony on September 14 for the first of three senior adaptive pocket parks to be built at its Luther Crest and Luther Woods senior housing campus in west Toledo. The park will be completed in the spring for residents to enjoy.

“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,” said Genacross President/CEO Rick Marshall. “They serve as a focal point of activity and interest, and, in this case, to improve the quality of life for our 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. These small pocket parks will each have a different theme, and will be accessible for older adults and those with mobility challenges.

The first park to be built will focus on the environment to promote relaxation and healing. This Environment Pocket 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 park. The academy has agreed to provide guidance with the plantings, and students will be providing education to the residents on the plant choices.

“With the Environment Pocket Park, we will create an area with natural plants, a naturally occurring pond, bird feeders, and more that will attract wildlife like butterflies, hummingbirds, and squirrels,” said Paul Sieben, an architect and Genacross Board Member who has been a driving force behind the project.

Genacross has plans for two additional pocket parks. The Body Pocket Park will focus on fitness to improve and maintain mobility. The Mind Pocket Park will focus on boosting memory and alertness.



Groundbreaking officials and Genacross Foundation Executive Director Mike George (left to right) watch as Genacross President/CEO Rick Marshall talks about the pocket parks project.

## Wolf Creek remembrance service provides moving tribute



Many family members had tears of joy and sadness in their eyes during the remembrance service held by Chaplain Greg Olsen at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. The service, held on November 5, honored the memory of those who had passed away over the course of the past year at the campus. While entering the chapel, people 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.

# FOUNDATION DONORS MAKE PROGRESS POSSIBLE

As the year draws to a close, we are constantly reminded of God’s blessings reflected in all the support Genacross has received from our generous donors. At times, it is easy to forget the important role each donor plays in the many lives touched by our dedicated front-line and support staff members.

Our residents’ lives are forever changed by the projects donors helped to fund. One such project is the senior adaptive pocket parks that will provide our low-income housing residents on our Luther Crest and Luther Woods joint campus with the opportunity to interact in meaningful ways with their natural environment and each other.

Another project is the purchase and installation of special equipment in the sensory rooms of our youth group homes to help kids with autism calm down during a stressful day. In addition, the opening of our Adrian group home, serving up to 10 youth, could not have happened without the benefactors who committed their resources to help build the home, our first one in Michigan.

Meanwhile, a generous Johannes Doerfler Society legacy gift donated by a woman who remembered Genacross



*Generous donor contributions fund many projects, including the construction of a new youth group home in Adrian, Michigan.*

in her will also allowed Genacross to complete much-needed upgrades at many of our facilities. While much was accomplished; more work still needs to be done. We know with God’s guidance and your support, however, that we can impact even more lives in 2023.

If you would like more information on donating to Genacross, please contact Michael George, Executive Director of the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, at 419.861.4964 or [MiGeorge@Genacross.org](mailto:MiGeorge@Genacross.org).

## INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

July 1 - September 30, 2022

Anonymous	Angela Clay	Mr. Michael & Dr. Natalie Jackson	Joan Noe	Jon Russell
Beverly Apel	James Cordy	Jim & Sandy Kersten	Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nungester	Mary Satterfield
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				Katie & Jay Zawisza



**IN MEMORY OF**

July 1 - September 30, 2022

**Barbara Baker, RN,**  
by Marie Hagen**Sharon Bauer** by  
Rev. Dr. Gerald Bauer**Anne Ruth Benko** by  
Shelby Jean Raines**Harlan Billow**  
by Anonymous,  
Mary Billow, Susan  
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Home School,** by  
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Jean Winkelman**My husband, Thomas  
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by Mrs. Thomas  
Longanbach**Kevin Loose** by  
St. Paul, Clyde**Ruth Mahnke** by  
Cheryl Daman**My wife, Mary  
Mueller,** by  
Weldon Mueller**My brother, Butch,**  
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Wisniwski**My family; James F,  
Helen E, and James  
J. Wheeler,** by Sharon  
Ann Wheeler**CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS**

July 1 - September 30, 2022

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St. Paul, Blissfield, MI  
Christ,Bowling Green  
St. Paul,  
Bowling Green  
Bethlehem, Defiance  
(Okolona)St. Paul, Defiance  
Grace, Elmore  
Grace, Fremont  
St. Mark, Fremont  
Hope, Hamler  
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St. Matthew, Lima  
St. Paul, Maybee, MI  
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School, Napoleon  
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St. John, Oak Harbor  
St. Michael,  
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PembervilleChurch of the Master,  
Perrysburg  
Shepherd of the  
Valley, Perrysburg  
Resurrection,  
Port Clinton  
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Stony Ridge  
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Olivet, Sylvania  
Bethel, Toledo  
Concordia, Toledo  
First St. John, Toledo  
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Wapakoneta  
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Community of Christ,  
Whitehouse  
Solomon, Woodville

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please accept our apologies  
and call 419.861.4965 so we  
can correct our records.

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July 1 - September 30, 2022

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Northwestern Ohio Synod, Findlay  
Plante Moran, PLLC, Toledo  
Select Sanitation, Swanton  
Stonefish Marketing, Toledo  
Thrivent - Choice Dollars, Appleton, WI  
Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing,  
Appleton, WI  
TOPS #1648, Erie, MI**IN HONOR OF**

July 1 - September 30, 2022

**Lois Bischoff** by Mrs. Launita Plassman**Florence Bryant** by Mrs. Launita Plassman**Dr. & Mrs. Dale Freimark's 50th Anniversary**  
by St. John WELCA, Oak Harbor**Our 36th Wedding Anniversary on Oct 18th**  
by Mr. & Mrs. William E. Nelson**Pastor Greg Olsen** by Bethel, Toledo,  
Thomas & Mary Wabeke**Our Heavenly Father, Whose Kingdom is  
Come,** by John Weislmeier**Wolf Creek Campus dedicated care staff** by  
Thomas & Mary Wabeke**Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Requirements Notice**

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# THE FRIEND

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## GENACROSS MINISTRIES CELEBRATE VETERANS DAY

On Veterans Day, many Genacross ministries recognized their residents who had served in the armed services. Below are pictures of a handful of Genacross residents who served our country, and we forever owe them, and all veterans, a debt of gratitude.

*Covenant Harbor senior community resident Jack Reindel served in the U.S. Navy from 1956-1960. He is shown here with some mementos of his time in service.*



*Napoleon Campus resident Edmund Weaver served in the U.S. Army from 1954-1956. As there was no war at the time, he worked as the Chaplain Assistant and drove a priest around. "I loved it!" he states.*

*Wolf Creek Campus resident Joseph Olman served in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was stationed at Okinawa and is very proud of his service.*



*Luther Haus senior community resident David Northrup served in the U.S. Marines, 2nd Recon battalion, 2nd division out of Camp Lejeune.*



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