



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



February 2023

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

The caring team at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus always tries to support the engagement of residents with life inside and outside the campus. Health limitations can sometimes dampen these efforts, but staff members work diligently to find ways around them. They encourage outings with loved ones whenever possible to help keep those connections strong. When an individual stays active mentally and/or physically, it helps the overall health of that person. To that end, staff members try hard to nurture residents' interests and passions so they can stay active. "David" is a Health Center resident who is passionate about sports, community events and people. He closely monitors a variety of local sports teams and watches as many games as he can. Recently, David expressed an interest in going to a basketball game, and he was able to attend one with his family. Getting out and having the opportunity to socialize has always been important to David, and his demeanor improves drastically when he is able to attend events and interact with other people. The Napoleon Campus team makes sure to support David and the other residents, so they can thrive and continue to enjoy enriched, happy lives while living on the Napoleon Campus.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

"Bill" has lived at Luther Meadow, an affordable Genacross senior community in Gibsonburg, Ohio, for over ten years. During that time, he has remained very independent and has enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren. Unfortunately, Bill was in a car accident, and he had to undergo several surgeries and spend a couple of weeks in a rehabilitation center. When Bill returned to his apartment, he knew he would need additional help to manage his medications and care for himself. Due to his injuries, Bill had limited mobility and issues getting around his apartment. His youngest daughter moved to be near Bill and help care for him after the accident. The Genacross housing manager understood the situation and encouraged them to explore the live-in aide option, since Bill's daughter would be his primary caregiver. The manager explained that the daughter would be able to live with Bill to help with his ongoing care as long as he completed an application and his physician submitted the needed paperwork. Bill would be responsible for his daughter, and she would have to follow all lease and community rules. After some discussion, the family decided this was the best option for Bill's recovery, and the necessary live-in aide paperwork was completed. Bill's daughter has moved in with him, and Bill, his family, and Genacross staff know that he has the care he needs.



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

“Stan’s” family thought he would return to his old life after a heart surgery and stroke several years ago, but things did not work out that way. “I got a little better and a little better,” Stan recalled, but, eventually, he plateaued. When progress stopped, he was not ready to live on his own. That is when Stan moved into an assisted living apartment at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus in December 2021. “When we looked at this place, it was a breath of fresh air,” Stan said. He appreciated the open space, gazebo, and deer-filled woods out his window, as well as the caring staff. Still, life was hard for Stan, who was in continual pain from his muscles never relaxing. By Christmas of 2022, Stan went to the hospital and enrolled in a pain clinic. Wolf Creek’s nurse-staffed wellness office, Stan’s on-campus doctor, and the hospital pain clinic all worked together to rebuild Stan’s medication regimen. Meanwhile, he continued to work hard in therapy. Stan’s muscles began to relax, and it was almost as if a new person emerged. “I’m much clearer thinking and much clearer talking since the med changes,” Stan said. He is also more comfortable in his body, and Stan has life to look forward to again, including seeing his grandchildren grow up more.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Jonathon” came to Genacross Family & Youth Services when he was 12 years old. He had been removed from his aunt and uncle’s home because of such aggressive and defiant behaviors as hitting, kicking, punching, and damaging property, as well as displaying self-harming and sexualized behaviors. Previously, Jonathon had experienced neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse as a young boy in the care of his parents. His father had died and his mother had moved out of state. After coming to Family & Youth Services, Jonathon began making slow but steady progress toward his goals. He was diagnosed with ADHD and Oppositional Defiant Disorder. He has worked diligently with his therapist and the direct care staff to learn coping skills for these challenges. Jonathon attends Four County Career Center, and is doing very well there. His daily functioning and coping skills have improved as well. Recently, Jonathon completed an application to work at McDonald’s, and he has been able to maintain employment for over three months. Family & Youth staff and Jonathon are proud of his accomplishments and continued progress.



GENACROSS AT HOME

“Karen” had received skilled nursing care from Genacross at Home for the past two years. Her medical complications required a home health nurse provide weekly care. Since Karen had been homebound for several years and her family members lived far away, Genacross at Home was able to provide the care she needed to remain living at home. Over the years, Karen and the Genacross at Home nurses built a friendly relationship based on trust. When Karen developed flu-like symptoms a while back, the nurses called and checked in with Karen throughout the week. During the weekly visit, Karen’s breathing was labored, so the Genacross at Home nurse contacted the primary care physician. Together, they decided Karen needed to go to the hospital. The nurse quickly facilitated that and then called Karen’s family to update them. The family was able to get to the hospital the next day, and they discovered Karen had contracted COVID-19. Due to her previous medical conditions, she passed away while in the hospital. After her passing, Karen’s family shared their gratitude to the Genacross at Home team for taking care of Karen over the past couple of years when they were not able to do it.

FOUNDATION

Recently, the Genacross Lutheran Service Foundation was asked to collaborate with the University of Toledo’s Jesup Scott Honors College and their community engagement curriculum in regards to area nonprofits. The honors community engagement students will work with the Genacross Foundation to conduct research and develop recommendations for a mutually agreed upon project. The two organizations decided to work on a new Volunteer Plan for Genacross Lutheran Services. The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has changed volunteering across many sectors, including nonprofits like Genacross. The honors students will evaluate current procedures and compare them to industry best practices, and then compile a framework for Genacross to review. Collaboration is important to Genacross and its success. The organization values its role as a lead institution in the community and wants to be able to not only benefit from the use of best practices, but also share them with other nonprofits.