



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



March 2023

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Jimmy” was 15 years old when he came to Genacross Family & Youth Services in August 2022. He had been involved with Child Protective Services when he and his five siblings were alone at home and a fire started. Nobody was injured, but the home conditions when first responders arrived were deplorable. Since then, Jimmy has had multiple failed placements. He finally came to Family & Youth Services after he began showing aggressive behaviors. Jimmy functions at a lower level than his chronological age, because of his autism and other severe intellectual disabilities. He is unable to communicate verbally and uses a digital device. Jimmy has exhibited very few aggressive behaviors since coming to Genacross, and staff feel he is doing really well overall and making progress toward his goals. Staff members describe him as being kindhearted, smart and very outgoing. He has responded well to sensory interventions and toys when he is agitated or upset about something. Recently, Jimmy began going to a respite home on occasional weekends with a family in the Columbus area. As these visits progressed, and they have gotten to know Jimmy, the family has decided to apply to be a permanent placement for him. They have been approved to begin the adoption process and add Jimmy to their family.

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Sarah” was born with multiple disabilities and medical complications, but she continues to live an independent life. Sarah, who lives in her own apartment, experienced a fall that caused her to go to the hospital. When she returned home to continue her recovery, she had ongoing therapy needs.

Sarah chose to have Genacross at Home deliver her physical and occupational therapy. As the Genacross at Home therapists were treating Sarah, they realized her mobility had been severely compromised, and she was not able to maneuver herself from her wheelchair into her vehicle to drive. This was decreasing Sarah’s ability to go to her follow-up appointments with her doctor. The Genacross at Home team communicated this issue with her doctor’s office and set up telehealth appointments for her. When there were doctor appointments Sarah needed to go to in person, the Genacross at Home team arranged for transportation services to ensure she got there and back safely. Sarah continues her rehabilitation at home, and her mobility is improving every day.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Alan” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus with a plan of being kept comfortable as his terminal condition progressed. He was a polite, warm, and funny individual who thrived while at the Napoleon Campus. Alan attended Bible study, bingo, and musical and holiday events. He loved having visitors and being with his family. He developed relationships with his fellow residents and even considered putting together a phone list so he could call them “if I have the inkling.” At first, he chose to eat his meals in his room, but, over time, he switched to taking meals in the dining room. He gained weight and enjoyed the food and conversation with his tablemates. Alan was always up for company and enjoyed talking about his life or inquiring about others and their lives. He made everyone feel seen and heard. If someone needed positivity, he could turn a day around. Even though he came to the campus with the expectation of a brief stay, staff and residents had the honor of enjoying his presence for several months.

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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HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Frank” and his wife have lived at Luther Grove senior community in east Toledo for several years. Frank has always been a very private person, and his wife would do most of the communicating with the Luther Grove staff. After Frank’s wife passed away suddenly, staff members became concerned that Frank was not seen leaving his apartment much and had limited contact with staff and residents. The Luther Grove service coordinator reached out to Frank’s emergency contact to ask how Frank was doing and determine if staff needed to check on him. His emergency contact asked that the staff check in with Frank and explained the family has been in contact with him as much as possible, but Frank is very private and does not want to be a burden to anyone. The service coordinator started visiting with him several times a week to have coffee and be a listening ear. The coordinator was doing observational assessments of Frank’s living environment and quickly realized that he did not know how to cook for himself and his nutrition was declining. She worked with Frank to get home-delivered meals and set up a grocery delivery service. The coordinator also worked with Frank and his doctor to schedule a check-up to assess his medications and identify any potential depression he was struggling with due to the passing of his wife. Frank now comes to the service coordinator’s office to visit with her multiple times a week and participates in various resident activities and events.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

The artwork is usually small, the size of a greeting card or so. Colorful pastel landscapes or character studies, they dot the desks, doors, and walls of assisted living residents and staff of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. They are the work of “Tonya,” a resident for the past 3 ½ years. She came to the Wolf Creek Campus after complications from a heart procedure. She requires the use of a power wheelchair to get around, although she is working in therapy to improve her ability to walk. Tonya has been doing pastels off and on for almost 20 years, ever since her son gave her a set. When she worked as a caregiver, she made drawings for the children or adults she cared for in her work. Now they connect Tonya to her neighbors and staff. A card table – covered in art supplies – occupies the center of Tonya’s apartment. It is always ready for her next project. “This is what I give for gifts, since I can’t afford presents,” Tonya said. “People like homemade stuff more than something from the store.” During the pandemic, Tonya often submitted her artwork to the campus-wide newsletter. The little sketches brightened the lives of others during the lockdown. Now, creating art gives Tonya some precious, focused alone time, when she is not resting or connecting with her vibrant circle of friends. “You learn something every time. Every time you do a picture you learn something,” she reflected.



FOUNDATION

Gifts from donors can come in different shapes and sizes. Recently, a large gift from the estate of Chester and Helen Foth was a blessed surprise to the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation. In August 1988, Chester F. Foth bequeathed the property located at 5635 Monroe St. to Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation upon the death of his wife Helen Stamm Foth. When Helen passed away in September 2022, the property transferred to the Genacross Foundation. It turns out that Mr. Foth was a resident of the Lutheran Orphans’ Home in the 1920s. He spoke highly of his time in the orphanage and hence his transfer of the land to this organization. The time he spent at the orphanage set him on a path for success, and he wanted to share that success with Genacross. He made the needed provisions in his Will to have the property transferred to Genacross upon the death of both him and his wife. “The Foth gift will impact Genacross ministries for generations to come,” said Foundation Executive Director Michael George. “We are so thankful to Chester and Helen for their thoughtful gift.”