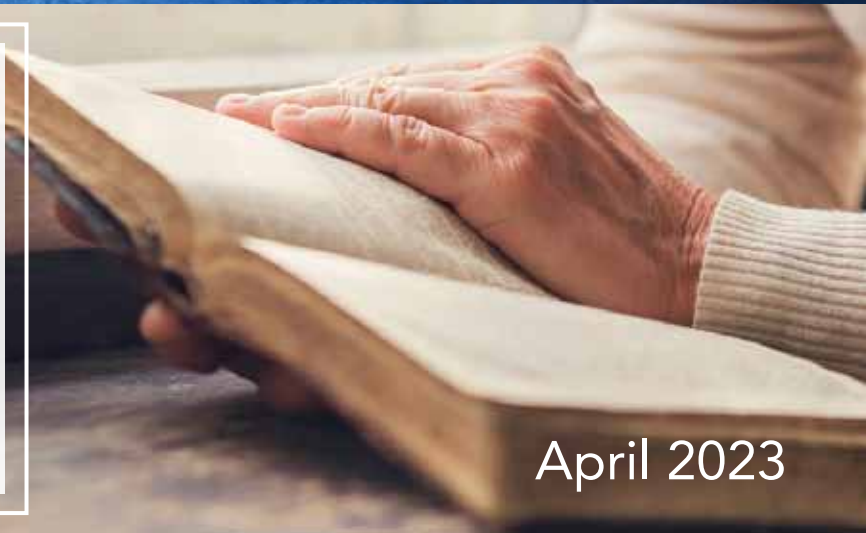




GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



April 2023

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Nicole” has lived at Luther Pines senior community in Lima, Ohio, for over ten years and has built great friendships at the property. She has always been social and very active in resident activities, but over time, the staff noticed Nicole not participating any longer. The Luther Pines service coordinator met with Nicole to check on her and identify any changes. Nicole admitted that she had started to decline and was isolating herself because she was embarrassed. She was scared to cook and her appetite had declined. She also was weak, having difficulty getting around her apartment, and experiencing spells of confusion. The service coordinator contacted family and worked with everyone to get Nicole into a nursing care facility. Luther Pines staff kept in contact with Nicole and her family while she was at the facility, because Nicole really wanted to return to her apartment at Luther Pines. After a month of being there, however, it was decided Nicole would be staying there long term, as her health had improved, she was getting stable meals, and her medication was managed. While she did not want to leave her home and she greatly misses her Luther Pines friends, Nicole had to do what was best for her health. She appreciated the staff’s help with her transition.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Angels come in many forms. This month, the angel for Genacross Family & Youth Services came in the form of a donor providing all the youth in care with a special event. The donor rented out the entire Urban Air facility as a private



event for two hours of amazing fun. The youth jumped on the trampolines, completed the obstacles courses, rode the zip line, drove the go-karts, played on the equipment, climbed the rock walls, and so much more. They also enjoyed free pizza and drinks. More than 30 Genacross team members attended the event to support the youth, and some employees even jumped and participated in the many activities. This was an awesome experience and so much fun for both the kids and staff. Everyone left exhausted, happy, and with big smiles on their faces. The donor has graciously arranged for this to be a recurring event that happens twice a year, and everyone is very excited and cannot wait until the next Urban Air fun day.

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Richard” and his wife went to the emergency room because of a wound on his foot that was causing it to become irritated and his toes to swell. In the emergency room, it was determined that Richard’s wound was severely infected, and the oral antibiotics he was taking were not addressing the infection. The ER doctor determined that a PICC line was needed to administer IV antibiotics so the infection could be properly treated. Richard chose to return home for his infusion services with skilled home health care through Genacross at Home. Staff worked with the infusion company to coordinate the delivery of the supplies for the PICC line and the antibiotics he needed. The day after he returned home from the emergency room, a Genacross at Home nurse came to begin Richard’s infusion services. He did great, and his wife, who is a nurse, received training so she could help administer and monitor his treatments over the next several weeks. Richard will now continue with ongoing visits from Genacross at Home until the infection improves, and he no longer needs infusion services.

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

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Residents and staff at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus hid a thousand candy-filled plastic Easter eggs on campus for a community event on April 1. While children recovered the eggs in a matter of minutes, the event continues to resonate with residents, who enjoyed it immensely. “Jeanette,” a nursing care resident, played a big role in getting the eggs ready. For several days prior, she and the Wolf Creek receptionist stuffed hundreds of the brightly colored eggs. “I always want to be busy,” Jeanette said. “When I made up my mind to go to a nursing home, I prayed that I would go to a place where I could be helpful and satisfied, and I’ve been satisfied.” Being helpful is what Jeanette sees as her daily work. She takes it upon herself to support her fellow residents and welcome new ones. A longtime community activist, Jeanette suffered a stroke many years ago. Her health continued to decline and she required a power chair to get around. She tried staying with family, but that arrangement did not work, so the Wolf Creek Campus, where Jeanette had stayed several times for rehabilitation, was her solution. Just as Jeanette’s faith and drive have always propelled her to action, she feels blessed amid her circumstances at the Wolf Creek Campus to continue helping others.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Years ago, “Mary Lou” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for a skilled stay in the Health Center. She recovered successfully and returned home. When it became apparent Mary Lou could no longer live at home, she made the decision with family to return to the Napoleon Campus for long-term nursing care. She spent quite a few years at the campus and was known to everyone as “Grandma.” She was kind and had a great sense of humor. She did not care much for crowds, but made an exception for musical entertainment, bingo, and church service. Mary Lou was always smiling and encouraging to staff. She never was one to complain; she did not even like to report if she was in pain so as not to bother staff. If someone was ill or having a rough day, however, she would say a prayer for them and then ask for updates. Mary Lou loved her family above all else. She would talk about how they were doing and introduce them when they visited. When it became apparent that her health was declining, she leaned on her family and faith to guide her. Family worked with the director of social services to arrange for hospice care. “Grandma” was grateful to be free from pain, and she passed away peacefully, holding the hands of one of the aides who had taken care of her over the years.

FOUNDATION

Recently, a group of area high school students in Leadership Toledo’s Youth in Philanthropy Encouraging Excellence (YIPEE) program toured the former Lutheran Orphans’ Home building at 2411 Seamen Street and the Blackmon Alternate Learning Center around the corner. Their visit was an effort to learn more about Genacross Family & Youth Services. The tours were very impactful, and afterward staff members shared some of the experiences of current residents in youth group homes. They also shared some of the challenges these youth face on a daily basis. The four hours spent at Genacross changed many of the student’s perspectives of what it was like to be an orphan in the past and what it is like to be a foster care youth in a group home setting today. The YIPEE program is for high school juniors and seniors wishing to learn more about community needs and the elements of thoughtful giving. Within this unique program, students identify key problems facing youth, solicit and review grant applications from local youth-serving organizations, and raise and allocate funds to deserving area nonprofits to address those needs. Genacross has applied for a grant for its Family & Youth programming and is waiting to hear the outcome of that application.