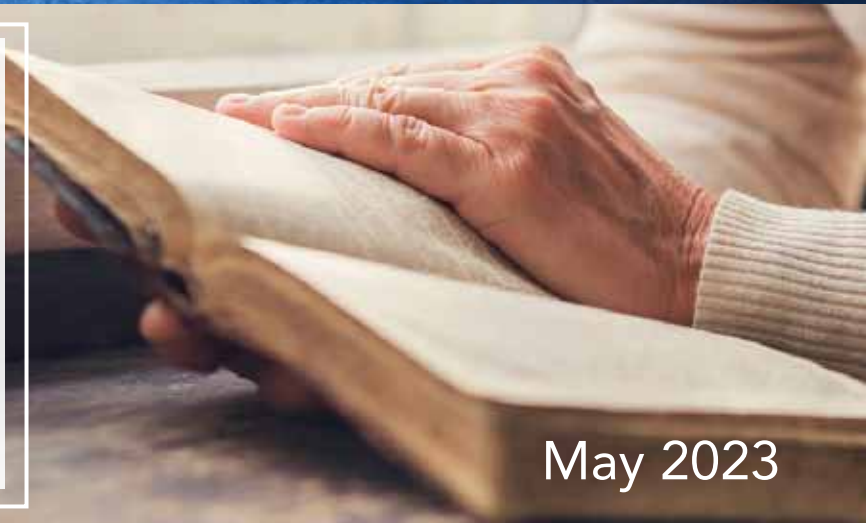




GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



May 2023

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Annette” had fallen at home and broken a bone. While in the hospital, staff informed her that she would need therapy at a skilled nursing facility in order to regain her strength to return home. There was a great deal of hesitation from Annette and her family, as they had experienced an unpleasant recovery in a nursing care facility in the past. The thought of repeating another negative experience had them on edge. The team at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus was informed of the family’s hesitation. Staff members met with the family to answer questions and address any concerns, so the transition from the hospital would be smooth. In the end, the family decided to try the Napoleon Campus, and Annette arrived for her short-term rehab stay. While at the campus, she completed physical and occupational therapy multiple times a week. Annette quickly regained her strength and was back home in a few weeks. She is complimentary about her time spent on the campus, saying the staff was kind, activities were fun, and the food was good. According to Annette, her stay at the Napoleon Campus favorably changed her perception of a skilled nursing facility.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

When “Natalie” arrived at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, she utilized a mechanical lift and was unable to walk or bear weight. Days before, she had fallen in her apartment and sustained a fracture to her femur. After undergoing surgery to repair the fracture at a local hospital, Natalie came to the Wolf Creek Campus for rehabilitation. A month into her recovery, a surgical complication sent her back to the hospital. After treatment and more surgery, she returned to the campus to resume her recovery. Early on, therapy worked diligently with her on safe transfers (without endangering the surgical site) and general strengthening. After months of therapy, Natalie began to put weight on the leg, gradually increasing the amount each week. Therapy continued for months to strengthen her leg, improve mobility, and increase her balance. Natalie’s therapists credit her great attitude and determination for her recovery. Her goal was always to return to her apartment at Genacross’ Luther Crest senior community, where she has lived for many years. After more than 10 months of rehabilitation, Natalie achieved that goal when she successfully transitioned home.



HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Josie” and “Ed” have been married for 77 years. Recently, they sold their home and moved into a Genacross senior community. While they are both in their 90s, Ed is still driving. He was in the Air Force and has shown his housing site’s service coordinator pictures of his time in the service. He likes to talk to the other veterans living in his housing community about the war and their collective experiences. The couple grew up and raised their family in the country. Ed worked for the post office, and Josie was a stay-at-home mom. They are fortunate to have a great deal of family support. Recently, their family presented them with a large plaque commemorating their lengthy marriage that hangs in their apartment. When asked what their secret is to a long marriage they said, “Compromise.” Living in their apartment and being part of the Genacross family has been a truly good fit for the couple. They appreciate that maintenance is provided and that there are many opportunities to socialize with other residents.

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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FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

One thing staff members at Genacross Family & Youth Services work hard on with the youth they serve is honesty and taking accountability for one's own actions and words. At the Anthony Wayne Group Home, for example, the youth often feel that they will get in trouble and receive punishment for being honest or coming forward to report something. The staff have been emphasizing the importance of being truthful with the youth, and how this impacts their relationships with others and how they feel about themselves. The discussions are helping the youth work on understanding their emotions and differentiating sadness, anger, fear, and other feelings. Recently, staff members received a call from the local high school reporting that one of the youth in care had been inappropriate with her language and behavior during the school day. "Molly" denied that the incident had occurred, so staff members discussed with her the importance of taking responsibility for her actions. After further discussion, Molly admitted that she did say and act a certain way, but was fearful of getting in trouble. Although there were consequences at school, "Molly" learned that she was not being punished at home. She was able to process her emotions and discussed ways she could have handled the situation more calmly. Although this is a small step with only one youth, it is a step forward in creating trust in these youth and helping them learn appropriate social and interpersonal skills.

GENACROSS AT HOME

"Barb," who lives at home with her husband, has been having pain in her shoulder and back, which has caused mobility issues. While she was going to different doctors and specialists to determine what was causing her pain and discomfort, her husband and a friend had been taking care of her meals and personal care. One day, Barb wanted to go out and walk in the nice weather, but her husband asked her to wait for him to return from work. Even though Barb thought she was strong enough to go on her own, she ended up falling and being rushed to the hospital for surgery. Afterward, Barb opted for in-home therapy and nursing services through Genacross at Home. As the clinicians from Genacross at Home were treating Barb, they noticed increased depression and obtained an order from her primary care physician for the Genacross at Home Medical Social Worker to visit her. The social worker worked with Barb to get ongoing counseling services started and began a referral with the Area Agency on Aging for PASSPORT waiver services. With additional services in place, she felt more settled and secure in her home living environment. Barb continues with her other home care services to improve her health and increase her mobility.



FOUNDATION

Great news! Recently, Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation was notified that the Leadership Toledo Youth in Philanthropy Encouraging Excellence (YIPEE) program has approved a \$2,000 grant that will be used to purchase playground equipment for youth to enjoy at one of the Genacross group homes. "The kids are so excited," said Katie Zawisza, Executive Director of Genacross Family & Youth Services. "What a great opportunity for our YIPEE kids to learn about Genacross' important work," added Anna Toney, Executive Director of Leadership Toledo. YIPEE is a program for high school juniors and seniors wishing to learn more about community needs and the elements of thoughtful giving. Within the YIPEE 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 nonprofit organizations to address those needs. This is the second year that Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation was selected for a grant.