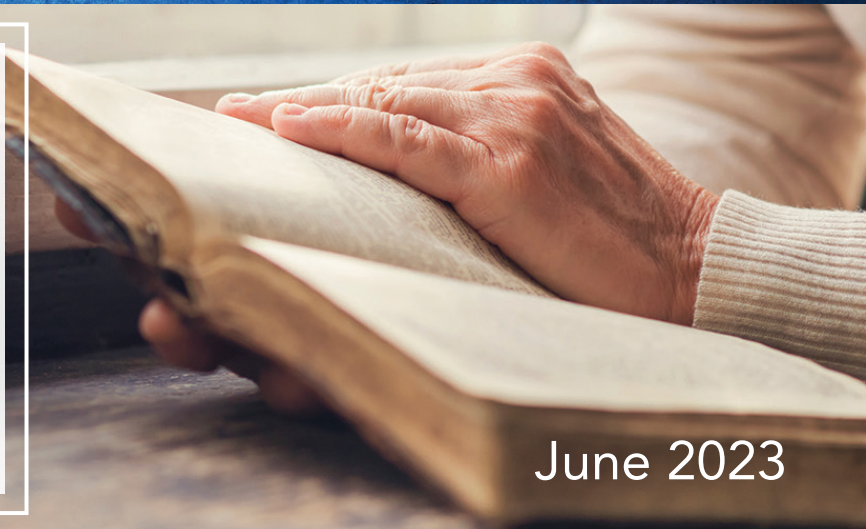




GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



June 2023

GENACROSS AT HOME

"Ben" has been receiving nursing care and therapy services from Genacross at Home while he recovers in his home. He is very independent, but his primary care physician wanted him to get assistance with a home health aide to help with his personal care. Ben was very resistant to the idea of receiving aide services, and the Genacross at Home team worked on a plan to help him become more comfortable with the idea for a short-term period until his strength improved. When the Genacross at Home aide arrived at Ben's house the first time, the aide called the Genacross at Home clinical manager, and the three of them had a conversation to determine what aide services would help him recover the most. Ben was still hesitant to accept the services, but he finally agreed. He only needed the aide services for a few weeks, and then Ben could complete his care independently.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Joseph" had a rough beginning to his life. He was placed with his aunt and uncle at 8 years old, because he had experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect in his biological home. While living with his aunt and uncle, he was unable to control his behaviors in their home and became increasingly aggressive and defiant. Joseph was placed with Genacross Family & Youth Services in 2017 at the age of 12. While in Genacross' care, he has had some tough days because of the trauma he had endured previously that resulted in his aggressive behaviors. Joseph worked closely with caring staff members, developing healthy boundaries and relationships. He spent many days completing therapeutic activities (in both individual and group settings) to learn coping, interpersonal communication, and emotion management skills. These skills have helped him grow both socially and emotionally. Over the six years in care at Family & Youth Services, Joseph has made progress in managing his emotions and not acting out sexually or aggressively. He even began taking classes at Four County Career Center in the EMT and fire fighter program. He also obtained a job working part-time at McDonald's to put some money aside and gain vocational skills. In May 2023, Joseph graduated from Four County Career Center and reunited with his aunt and her family.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Marta" has lived in her assisted living apartment at Alpine Village on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years. Living at Alpine Village provides her with plenty to do throughout the day, including church services on Sundays. One day, Marta was surprised when a group of people she knew walked by her apartment. It was one of her best friends touring with her family! Marta and "Eva" grew up in Napoleon together, and both raised their children in that community. The apartment across from Marta had become available, and her friend was considering moving in. The Genacross admissions team was able to make it happen. Now, three months later, the two friends eat every meal together, take walks around the campus, enjoy activities, and have coffee in the afternoon. Their friendship has come full circle.

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

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Jerry,” who resides at Kettle Run senior community in Bucyrus, Ohio, has faced significant challenges this year. He has declined quite a bit recently and has needed more help in his home and with his day-to-day activities. Jerry was not showering appropriately or eating much besides the home-delivered meals he gets once a day. He was also having issues with his finances. Jerry was depending on staff members and neighbors to do things for him, since he does not have close family in the area. He met with the Genacross service coordinator and together they completed a PASSPORT referral to the area council on aging. Jerry was denied services, three times in all, for being too independent. This was very frustrating because his functional decline was evident to everyone around him. A while later, Jerry was put on oxygen and had a nurse coming in once a week to help him. Then the social worker with his home health company got involved, and it turned out Jerry had a qualifying diagnosis for hospice care. The Genacross service coordinator and home health social worker discussed the situation with Jerry, who agreed to get a hospice assessment. He was approved and now has a daily home health aide, RN case manager twice a week, social worker, and therapy services if needed. His oxygen is also covered, which he was paying for out of pocket. This helps with his finances, and under hospice care everything medical is covered. Jerry is now doing better and has the help he really needed to remain independent in his own home. Working together with the different providers and advocating for Jerry’s best interests is essentially the purpose of service coordination. Through the service coordination efforts at Genacross, residents have the opportunity to have better outcomes throughout their life’s journey.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Naomi” does not say much of anything anymore. That was not the case when she first arrived at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus in 2018. Not to say that Naomi was a chatterbox, rather her Appalachian accent carried a firmness and strength that reflected her bedrock faith. It was how she met her challenges: head on and looking for an opportunity to serve God. When Naomi’s husband died she vowed never to remarry. She would serve God with all her might. She did, teaching Sunday School and serving others through her church. When Naomi learned she had dementia, she met it head-on. She moved close to her daughter and in to the Wolf Creek Campus. She attended chapel, Bible study, and witnessed her faith wherever she could. She even brought a friend from home whom she thought would benefit from the supportive care she was receiving. Over the years and through the pandemic, Naomi’s abilities faded. She traded a walker for a wheelchair. Sentences became words. Words became sounds. Naomi’s presence did not fade, though. There she is at Bible study, chapel, visiting with her daughter, or visiting with her friend – who is thriving. What Naomi knows, nobody actually can be sure. At Wolf Creek, however, Naomi is known and honored. Naomi does not say much of anything anymore, but her presence still speaks to those around her.



FOUNDATION

Thanks to a very generous gift from Lawrence and Adele Youngbauer years ago, the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation has been able to award four scholarships each year to students who will be furthering their education in the social services field. One student from Liberty Center, Clay, Cardinal Stritch and Anthony Wayne high schools, which are located where Genacross has a ministry presence, is awarded a scholarship each year. This year’s recipients are: Haley Mohler, Liberty Center High School, who will be attending Owens Community College; Ella Moore, Clay High School, who will be attending the University of Toledo; Alexa Soltes, Cardinal Stritch High School, who will be attending Baldwin Wallace University; and Hailey Brass, Anthony Wayne High School, who will be attending The Ohio State University. Genacross wishes all the students great success. This fund truly shows the impact of a forever gift to Genacross – and how it can change lives in perpetuity.