



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



July 2023

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

At the age of 9, “Julie” was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services for residential treatment. She had undergone three surgeries for a brain tumor and hydrocephalus, which left her with cognitive and behavioral deficits that her grandparents could no longer manage. She was exhibiting emotional dysregulation, impulsivity, disinhibition, and disrespectful behaviors. Julie has lived for 8 years at the Oregon Group Home and has made slow and steady progress toward her goals. Recently, she transitioned to the East Toledo home, which is a smaller setting where she has continued to show improvements. Julie has a desk in her room and has arranged her extensive book collection. She is a spiritual person who reads her Bible daily, requests programming such as Joyce Meyer and Billy Graham, and regularly attends church on Sundays. Recently, her therapist reported that Julie has demonstrated a significant improvement in motivation and independence during group therapy activities. Julie successfully participated in weekly pre-employment services through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) during the 2022-2023 academic school year. She recently began a Summer Youth Work Experience Program through Harbor, which is a five-week paid work experience. She works side-by-side with a job coach in the dietetics department at St. Charles Hospital. With assistance from OOD, Julie also will be participating in a vocational continuing education program through Toledo Public Schools for the 2023-2024 academic year.

## HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

The Genacross service coordinator at Luther Woods senior community recently met with “Terry” to complete a resident assessment. During the assessment process, the service coordinator uncovered several needs. Due to the progression of his Parkinson’s disease and a recent fall that broke a hip, mobility had become a challenge for Terry.



He was able to purchase a power chair to make mobility easier; however, he was nervous about operating the new chair. Terry was also struggling with medication management. Family members had been setting up his medications, but Terry was forgetting to take them and needed more assistance. The coordinator informed Terry that a home health agency could provide him with education to ensure he was able to use the power chair safely and medication management services to ensure he took his medicine in a timely manner. Terry agreed to home health coming in to help him, so the coordinator had his doctor send in orders for physical therapy, occupational therapy and nursing care to Genacross at Home. With the help of therapists and a nurse, Terry now has the help he needs to remain living in his home at Luther Woods.

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.

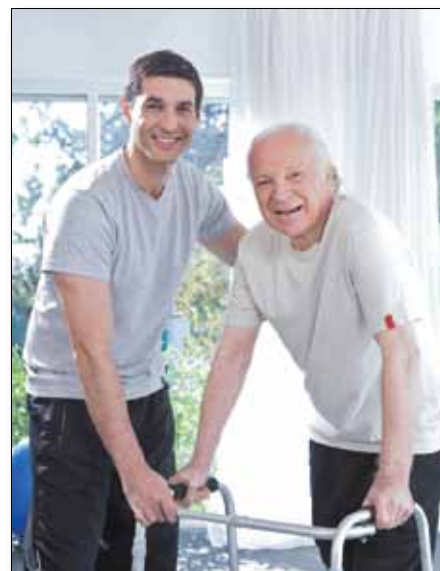
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## GENACROSS AT HOME

A local hospital referred “Karen” to Genacross at Home. She has experienced prolonged health issues most of her life and currently has a feeding tube and a wound on her leg. Karen was bedbound prior to her hospitalization, and the goal is to get her back in her wheelchair and moving around her home. To facilitate this goal, Genacross at Home provides skilled nursing care, as well as physical, occupational, and speech therapy. A nurse offers medication education and teaching and training on Karen’s feeding tube. A physical therapist works on strength training, while an occupational therapist works on fine motor skills with Karen. A speech therapist provides more education on the feeding tube since the tube is permanent. Karen is working hard with the help of the Genacross at Home staff to regain independence and functionality.

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Sam’s” arthritic hip just kept getting worse. It was painful every time he took a step. Finally, Sam decided it was time to have hip replacement surgery. After surgery, however, he had significant problems with balance and dizziness. Since it was not safe for him to go home, Sam chose the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for in-patient rehabilitation. On his first day, he could not get out of bed without help, could only walk 10 feet, and could only climb one step. Therapy staff guided exercises designed to strengthen Sam’s body and balance. He walked a little farther each day with a walker. He stood and practiced extending his arms – having to adjust to a changing center of balance. “You find out what each patient can do and progress from there,” the Director of Therapy explained. “We relate everything to function. We want them to go home successfully.” After a great deal of hard work, Sam was able to return home. He could get up without assistance and walk over 150 feet independently. After another month of in-home therapy with Genacross at Home, Sam was able to climb steps safely by himself. He can also drive now; the leg affected by the bad hip was the one on the accelerator. He can go to the grocery store to help his wife and out to lunch with his former co-workers. Sam’s quality of life is improved thanks to the expertise he received at the Wolf Creek Campus



## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

The staff at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus first met “Sandy” when she arrived at the campus for rehabilitation services to improve her strength. She had come from the hospital, and the staff there had not told her that she was coming to a skilled nursing facility. When Sandy arrived from the hospital, she was, understandably, not happy. She had wanted to go to a local veterans home, but the waitlist was lengthy. Until she could be admitted there, Sandy needed to begin her therapy at the Napoleon Campus. Over the next few months, she worked with the therapy team to get her strength back. She got to know and love the staff members and began to participate in activities that she had declined in the beginning. By the time the veterans home had an opening, Sandy felt conflicted about leaving. Ultimately, she decided to continue with her plan of going to the home to be around fellow veterans, but she said it was now a bittersweet goodbye for her. It was the same for the Napoleon staff, as Sandy had become a welcomed presence on campus.

## FOUNDATION

Individuals who attended the annual Genacross Donor Appreciation Reception on July 16 were thanked for their generosity and support. The afternoon event was held in the dining room at Creekside Condominiums on the Wolf Creek Campus. Nearly 50 guests mingled, ate catered hors d’oeuvres and mini-desserts, and took tours of the Creekside community. The event’s speaker was the Family & Youth Services Director of Operations, who showed a glimpse of the youth served by the ministry and their unique needs. Then guests were treated to a special guest. A youth in care shared her personal struggles and how her life has been forever changed for the better because of her time spent in the Family & Youth program. The entire event was underwritten by the Trust Company Family Offices, Stapleton Insurance and Marshall Melhorn LLC. Thank you so much to all the donors who make possible the charitable work of Genacross Lutheran Services and its ministries.