



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



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FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Marie" came to Genacross Family & Youth Services at 13 years old and had been in 12 previous placements. She was removed from her family home due to physical abuse and experienced sexual abuse while in a foster home at an earlier age. She struggled significantly with such behaviors as aggression, lying, running away, stealing, destroying property, and hypochondriac tendencies. When Marie first came to Genacross, she was placed in the East Toledo group home, which is a smaller setting. She struggled with all the freedoms and open structure in this setting. She ran away several times and demonstrated her hypochondriac behaviors often. Caregivers felt she needed a more structured setting, so she was moved to the Maumee Youth Center after six months. Once there, Marie quickly turned her behaviors around and began to make progress toward her goals. She demonstrated a willingness to focus on her strengths, make improved choices, open up in therapy, and follow the daily structure. Marie also began to improve on her educational goals and in her relationships with peers and the staff working hard to support and coach her. Marie recently was able to step down to the Anthony Wayne group home, which gives her more opportunities to grow and build her skills. She is enjoying living there and is looking forward to the new school year. In addition, Marie was recently asked to share her story with a small group of Genacross donors, and she did a great job.

GENACROSS AT HOME

"Tina" had some complex medical issues and suffered a fall in the home. After surgery at a local hospital, Tina chose to return home with Genacross at Home to complete her recovery. She was receiving nursing, physical therapy and occupational therapy services, but the Genacross at Home team grew concerned over Tina's lack of progress. A Genacross at Home team member spoke with Tina, her family, and her primary care physician about their concerns, and the physician agreed to have Genacross at Home's medical social worker provide an assessment and options for Tina's care moving forward. After the social worker and Tina met, she agreed that a stay at a skilled nursing facility for a few weeks to build her strength and get 24/7 care was the best option. Subsequently, Tina was admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for care. She rehabbed there for a few weeks before returning home with follow-up care by the Genacross at Home team, and she is making great strides in her recovery.



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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WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"I never thought I'd be back," said "Alice" about her recent return to the assisted living level of care on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Alice, who is in her late 90s, had a stroke about 18 months ago that caused her to need additional support in long-term care. She and everyone else – her care team and family - thought the move would be permanent. Alice, however, never gave up. "I guess I'm made that way," she said. "I like challenges, and the therapy people made me feel confident that I could do better. The therapists were a big, big help." She also cites her faith as critical to her recovery. "I've had a lot of difficult things happen in my life, and my faith has kept me going," she added. Alice still has goals for herself. She mostly gets around in a wheelchair, but she is working with the therapy team to be able to use a walker safely. An avid card player, Alice is also looking forward to joining the card-playing circles of assisted living once again.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"David" came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after a short hospital stay made necessary by a fall he experienced at home. He needed inpatient rehabilitation services to build his strength. When he arrived at the Health Center, his strength was drastically decreased from his normal capabilities. David felt apprehensive about the journey ahead of him but was eager to start. He was comforted by the fact that he had a close family member on the campus. He spent most of his time working with the therapy team to increase his strength and endurance, so he could return home to live independently. While his mobility was severely limited when he first arrived, David was walking confidently with a walker by the time he was ready to return home. He complimented staff members for their warmth and care for him during his stay. He loved the food and friendly smiles he saw each day. David also gave a great deal of credit to the therapy team specifically, for consistently working with him so he could move forward each day.



HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

"Jerry" approached the Genacross service coordinator at his Luther Crest senior community to discuss the issue of food insecurity that was bothering him. Jerry stated that with grocery prices on the rise, his SNAP benefit does not provide enough money to purchase all his needed food items. The service coordinator introduced Jerry to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program through the SeaGate Food Bank. This program aims to provide seniors over the age of 60, who meet certain income guidelines, with a monthly box of food. The food box contains a combination of juice, canned fruit, canned vegetables, cereal, pasta, milk, cheese, canned meat, beans and peanut butter. Jerry and the coordinator determined that he met the guidelines for the program. The coordinator then assisted him with the application and located the closest distribution center. Through this program, residents like Jerry are able to get needed food items to stretch their budgets.

FOUNDATION

There is something inspiring about seeing the connection of a person's past and present come together in a meaningful way. That is what happened in the case of Tim Weirich, a recent donor to the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation. Tim's extended family was very involved with the former Lutheran Orphans' and Old Folks' homes on the east side of Toledo, where the ministry of Genacross began. His mother and grandmother volunteered countless hours to these ministries. As a child, Tim also volunteered through his church and saw the dedicated volunteers and all they did to help others. Later, he began working there, and it was an eye-opening experience to see the care that so many of the elderly residents needed. "The concept of faith-based, compassionate, high-quality care and respect for each resident and staff member was instilled in all who worked and volunteered at the home," Tim said. He went on to become a nurse known for his compassionate disposition, and the experiences he had at the Lutheran homes in his early years were useful to him throughout his career. Recently, Tim reached out to the executive director of the Foundation, and established a special purpose endowment named the Trilogy of Faith Endowment-Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Fund. Money from the fund will benefit the Genacross ministries located in the east Toledo/Oregon area. Past and present have connected to continue serving individuals in need.