



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



September 2023

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Carla" is an assisted living resident on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, who came to the campus' Health Center for therapy services after an infection in her knee and knee surgery left her unable to walk. Carla often shared with her family that she doubted if she would ever walk again. During her rehabilitation stay, the therapy and nursing care staff worked hard to keep her positive and moving forward. They urged her to continue with her physical and occupational therapy so she could meet her goals. Carla persevered and regained the ability to walk. She says that her rehab experience has given her a better quality of life and restored her independence. She is excited to be returning to her assisted living apartment next month. Carla is looking forward to being back with her assisted living friends, but she still plans to visit the friends she made while completing her rehabilitation. She is "very grateful" for the care provided by the staff on the Wolf Creek Campus.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Many family members are caregivers to their loved ones, and while it is a blessing to care for them, it can be a taxing role to embrace. Caregivers can become fatigued in their role, and it can add strain to their everyday lives. Many people are not aware that the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus offers what is called a respite stay. Respite stays allow caregivers a chance to take a vacation, attend an event, or just recharge for a few days at home while staff members care for their loved one. We have a caregiver, "John," whose loved one enjoys spending time at the Napoleon Campus so much that the family uses the campus every month for much-needed caregiving breaks. When John's father passed away suddenly, he found himself the sole caregiver for his mother. He enjoys the extra time with his mother, but often feels guilt if he is not available at all hours or needs a break. That is where the Napoleon Campus was able to help him. His mother knows and likes the staff, and they enjoy spending time with her when she visits for a respite stay. Respite stays can also be a helpful tool for families wondering if the campus is the right choice for them, as they get to experience what the campus has to offer. Choosing the right fit for a loved one's care can be daunting and being able to "try on" the campus for a short stay is a great way to help make a decision



GENACROSS AT HOME

About a month ago, "Frank" went into the hospital with a number of complex medical issues. He had a wound that had formed, and it had become infected. His wife, "Sarah," went to the hospital daily until Frank was ready to be discharged. The hospital staff recommended that Frank go to a local nursing care facility for rehabilitation because of the possibility of complications due to the location of his wound. Sarah did not want Frank to go to a rehab facility, so she requested home health services with Genacross at Home. At first, Sarah struggled because help was not just a call light away, but she went through in-home teaching and training to learn how to help care for Frank when the Genacross at Home staff members were not present. Now, Sarah has a better understanding of the complications facing her husband, and she has shared with the staff that she wants to continue with in-home care.

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

Imagine “Jamie,” a scared 10-year-old girl arriving at her new home at the Maumee Youth Center. She had been removed from a severely abusive and neglectful situation, and she has a learning disability, limited communication skills, and very aggressive behaviors. When Jamie first arrived, she identified as a feral animal and would bark, bite, scratch, and literally urinate on everything. She would also rip up anything that she could get her hands on including clothes, bedding, and towels. Despite her behaviors, the staff took an interest in Jamie, who turned out to also be loving, playful, and funny. She really impacted staff in a positive manner and worked hard toward her treatment goals.

Then suddenly, about two years ago, Jamie had an unexplained episode where she could not walk or talk without extreme movements and slurs. Her condition became so bad that she would lay on her back and slide across the ground tearing and shredding her pants every day. At one point, Jamie became listless and non-responsive, sleeping most of the day and night. She seemed destined to be institutionalized. However, after careful diagnoses and trying many treatment options, her psychiatrist had a breakthrough. He prescribed Jamie a medication that changed her life. In a matter of a couple weeks, she was walking, talking and taking care of herself more and more each day. Fast forward to the last Sunday in August. Jamie attended church and didn't need any supports to sit through the service. She listened, sang and quietly participated the entire time, being fully engaged in the sermon. God is truly in our midst helping Jamie.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Lucy” resides at Luther Hills senior community, but she had been hospitalized and in a skilled nursing facility for several months. The service coordinator at her Genacross housing site was involved with Lucy's case and asked to observe one of her therapy sessions to see if Lucy was strong enough to live independently at home. The service coordinator was also involved in a care conference determining next steps. With permission, the coordinator took pictures of the bathroom and bedroom in Lucy's apartment and sent them to the therapists so they could work on specific tasks to make her return home go smoothly. When Lucy finally arrived home, she used a walker to get inside her apartment, which had been stocked with food and supplies for her. The service coordinator has helped Lucy set up her follow-up appointments with her primary care physician, neurologist, and orthopedic specialist. Lucy also has home health care for physical and occupational therapies, nursing care, and aide services. In addition, Lucy's medications are delivered to her home, and she has a life alert system in place. Lucy's family is involved, and they will also help with appointments and other needs. When everyone comes together to work as a team and all providers are involved to make the process go smoothly, it really does make a world of difference. Wholeness of Life is one of the Genacross Core Values, and the service coordinator helped Lucy overcome the hurdles and obstacles in her way, giving her another chance to live her life to the fullest and to continue her journey at home.



FOUNDATION

A few weeks ago, a ribbon cutting was held at the Genacross Maumee Youth Center to open the newly paved basketball court. The old court had been in bad shape for quite a while and was virtually unusable for the youth living there. Thanks to generous donors Terry L. Bossert, who gave the funds needed for the new asphalt court to be installed, and Hylant Inc., which donated the basketball poles and equipment, the children can now play and exercise on a new court. This update was made possible through the support of generous donors, who fund many valuable projects to enhance the lives of residents. The youth were released from classes to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony, and cheered when the basketball court was open for play. Before heading back to class, the kids enjoyed doughnuts and punch to celebrate.