

The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CIX NO. 3 SUMMER/FALL 2023

GENACROSS DEDICATES POCKET PARK AT HOUSING CAMPUS

Genacross Lutheran Services held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 24 to dedicate the first of three senior adaptive pocket parks to be built for the residents at its Luther Crest and Luther Woods joint campus in west Toledo.

The first pocket park to be built for residents focuses on the environment to promote relaxation and healing. The Environment Pocket Park features perennial plants, a naturally occurring pond, a stone path, benches, and bird feeders, which create a quiet spot for residents to enjoy nature.

This park was funded by Medical Mutual of Ohio and an anonymous fund of the Greater Toledo Community Foundation represented by donor advisor Chuck Stocking. In addition, Genacross Board Member Paul Sieben donated the benches. Supreme Outdoors, LLC, was the landscaping contractor that designed and created the park.

This is a wonderful spot for our resident to be able to gather," said Genacross President/CEO Rick Marshall. "We have some nice gathering places inside our buildings, but to be able to have a place where the residents can come and sit and enjoy the outdoors is really exciting."

A pocket park is a small park within a community, usually under one acre in size, which is often created on irregular pieces of land. They serve as focal points of activity and interest. At Luther Crest and Luther Woods senior communities, the pocket park project was created to offer residents socialization opportunities and overall health and wellness experiences.

Genacross has plans for two additional pocket parks focusing on the body and the mind. Each park will be accessible for older adults and those with mobility challenges.



Genacross President/CEO Rick Marshall (center) cuts the ribbon for the new pocket park as donors (left to right) Paul Sieben, Chuck Stocking from the Greater Toledo Community Foundation, and Frank Bloomquist from Medical Mutual look on with Mike George, Executive Director of the Genacross Foundation.



DAY OF GIVING EXCEEDS GOAL

Genacross Lutheran Services could not have exceeded its \$20,000 fundraising goal without the generous response of donors on August 15. They made the second annual Day of Giving a success!

Because of the support of matching gift sponsors, RCO Law, Plante Moran, and Terry L. Bossert, and the generosity of individual donors, Genacross raised more than \$21,000 for this year's Day of Giving. Thank you!

IN THIS ISSUE

- CEO Column, page 2
- Leadership, page 3
- Youth Services, page 3
- Napoleon Campus, page 4

- Wolf Creek Campus, page 4
- Genacross at Home, page 5
- Core Value, page 5
- Foundation, page 6
- Donations, pages 6-7

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey.

OUR VISION

Through our faith and work, we strive to be a forward-thinking, compassionate organization that improves the lives of current and future generations.

OUR VALUES

Faithfulness to Christ
Equality and Justice
Wholeness of Life
Integrity
Quality of Service
Stewardship of Resources

OUR MINISTRIES

Genacross Lutheran Services
Napoleon Campus

Genacross Lutheran Services
Wolf Creek Campus

**Genacross Home & Community
Based Services**

Genacross at Home

**Genacross Family &
Youth Services**

**Genacross Lutheran Services
Foundation**

Connect on Social Media:



A note from RICK MARSHALL

President and CEO



Community partnerships

At Genacross, we have a long history of partnering with organizations in the communities we serve. For many years, our Family & Youth ministry has collaborated with the Liberty Center and Oregon school districts to provide education to at-risk youth, including those served in our programming as well as those from the surrounding communities. These partnerships combine the expertise of our Family & Youth team with that of experienced

educators to ensure the best alternate learning environments. Our Luther Meadow affordable housing site for seniors also hosts the Gibsonburg Senior Center in the building's community room. We often open up our sites to community organizations to conduct health fairs, educational programs, and church-related programming.

We are very excited about our newest partnership with the Erie County Health Department. Genacross maintains a building in Sandusky in Erie County that is one of our former care campuses. During the height of the coronavirus pandemic, we partnered with the county's health department to allow the use of our building to care for COVID-19 patients in the event that capacity constraints were exceeded at local hospitals. Now, we are working together to open a new adult day center in the building.

Genacross will provide the building and some operational consulting, while the health department will run the program. The new adult day center will be a community resource for individuals who need care during the daytime hours. Many families struggle to provide around-the-clock care for their loved one in their homes. The family members may have jobs or other responsibilities that take them away during the day. In addition, family members sometimes need a respite from the demands of providing care. An adult day center is there to provide medical care, nutritious meals, and meaningful activities to participants. We anticipate that the new adult day center will open later in the fall.

Beyond the adult day center, we are also working alongside the Erie County Health Department and other community leaders to bring more affordable housing to low-income seniors in the Sandusky community. We are currently evaluating two potential sites and hope to bring a project to fruition in the next year. By combining the communities' engagement and Genacross expertise, we will make more good things happen in the Sandusky area.

Genacross is proud to work alongside our community partners in service.

Blessings,

GenacrossLutheranServices.org

GENACROSS APPOINTS NEW HUMAN RESOURCES LEADER

Genacross Lutheran Services announces the appointment of Jason Morris as its new Vice President of Human Resources. As a member of the leadership team, Mr. Morris oversees the human resources (HR) function of the entire organization. He leads the employee engagement initiatives, develops strategic HR plans and policies, and develops and implements creative employee benefit offerings. He also oversees the Genacross Organizational Integrity Program.



Jason Morris

“I am fueled with enthusiasm and commitment to build a people-first future for Genacross,” Mr. Morris said. “I firmly believe that the most valuable asset of any organization is its people, and my vision is centered around creating a culture that empowers, engages, and celebrates our employees.”

Mr. Morris brings extensive HR background to Genacross. His 20 years of experience includes leadership roles at Hollywood Casino and Owens Community College, and work at SSOE Group. He was also named the Northwest Ohio Human Resource

Professional of the Year in 2021 by the Northwest Ohio Human Resource Association (NOHRA).

“Jason was selected after an extensive search and interview process that included candidates from around the region,” stated Genacross President/CEO Rick Marshall. “I have no doubt that employees will find him to be engaging and ready to learn how to help them thrive in their roles here.”

Mr. Morris, who resides in Sylvania, Ohio, with his two daughters Halie and Linda, earned a bachelor’s degree in political science and public administration from the University of Toledo. He is a certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR) and a Society for Human Resource Management Certified Professional (SHRM-CP). He also is a member of NOHRA, SHRM and The Employers’ Association.

“I plan to prioritize a few key areas of focus,” Mr. Morris explained. “I am committed to creating an exceptional employee experience, attracting and retaining top talent for long-term success, establishing a learning culture that provides employees with the tools and resources to thrive, and championing initiatives that promote employee engagement and wellness.”

Youth in care throws out first pitch at Mud Hens game

Several youth served by Genacross Family & Youth Services enjoyed a picture-perfect summer evening of baseball fun on August 8. While the youth and their caregivers enjoyed the ballpark food and rooting for the Toledo Mud Hens, they also had the opportunity to cheer on one of their peers, Mateo Smith, throwing out the game’s first pitch.

Mateo, a 7-year old young man living in a Genacross youth group home in Oregon, Ohio, is a first grader at Coy Elementary School. He loves baseball and recently finished his first season of organized coach-pitch baseball. According to his coach, “Mateo was an awesome first baseman and hit fifth in the batting lineup.”

“For a young man who loves baseball, throwing out the first pitch was an amazing opportunity,” said Katie Zawisza, Family & Youth Services Executive Director. “All of the youth who attended the Mud Hens game were treated for having good behaviors and making progress in their treatment goals.”

Joining the youth at the baseball game were residents from the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, members from Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church (one of our member congregations), and residents from Luther Home of Mercy (one of our sister Lutheran agencies).



Mateo Smith stands with Muddy the Mud Hen after throwing out the first pitch of the game.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS FIELD DAY CELEBRATES STAFF

The Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus held a Field Day employee appreciation event on July 25. Staff members were provided lunch as well as an ice cream bar. The Field Day events included a three-legged race, balloon toss, and tug-o-war, with prizes and bragging rights going to the event winners.

For the couple of weeks leading up to Field Day, staff members could vote for a manager to receive a pie to the face. The top three vote getters would be chosen for the honor. The three “winners” were Executive Director Casey Amonette, Director of Nursing Amber Cocke, and Dietary Manager Andrea Flogaus.

“It was nice to step away from our day-to-day routines and enjoy being with each other, as well as seeing so much laughter and smiles,” said Ms. Cocke, who participated in the day’s events.

“We have all learned lessons from the challenging times during COVID-19, but here at the Napoleon Campus, we have strived to make sure our staff know how much they mean to us,” Mrs. Amonette said.

“Health care is not easy, and it takes someone with a special heart to do what we do. We would not be anything without our staff’s love and dedication.”



Napoleon Campus team members line up for a balloon toss (top) and managers (left) are ready to get a pie in the face.

Budding artists gather at Wolf Creek Campus



A free painting class for seniors was held on the Wolf Creek Campus lawn.

A beautiful sunny afternoon was the backdrop for a free painting class held August 9 on the lawn of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. The 16 attendees had the opportunity to paint a picture of birds that was led by Jessica Ball, a professional instructor from Tote & Go Canvas.

“I was excited to teach this enthusiastic group, as I have a soft spot for seniors,” Ms. Ball said. “I believe that art is therapeutic for all ages and ability levels.”

Speaking of being therapeutic, the painting class was modified for seniors with limited range of motion. In addition, Therapy Director Joe DeBortoli led a mid-class stretching session and answered questions about the Wolf Creek Campus therapy services. Several attendees asked when the next class would be...stay tuned!

Mark your
Calendar

A DAY IN THE LIGHT Benefit Concert

Thursday, October 5, 2023
4 - 7 p.m.

Plan to join us for an evening of live spiritual music from local musicians and praise bands on the back lawn of Forestview assisted living at the Wolf Creek Campus.

- Music
- Silent auction
- Live painting demonstration
- Food trucks

This event will raise money for the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation to support the caring ministries of Genacross.

GENACROSS AT HOME CONTINUES TO GROW STEADILY

Genacross at Home experienced slow and steady growth over the past five years, serving more clients with skilled nursing, therapy services and medical social services to help them recuperate in the comfort of their own homes. Recently, the home health agency expanded into Defiance County.

“After much research, we decided to expand our northwest Ohio service coverage area to include Defiance County,” said Amanda Schroeder, Vice President of Home & Community Based Services. “This move is a natural extension of our ministry work in the Napoleon area, and it expands the reach of our home health agency farther west to help more individuals.”

The compassionate staff members from Genacross at Home currently provide home health services to clients living in Lucas, Fulton, Henry, Defiance, Wood, Ottawa, Sandusky and

Erie counties. For more information, please call Vanessa Barrett at 419.724.1827 or VBarrett@Genacross.org.



Sherry Thomas, RN, provides services to Wolf Creek assisted living resident Joyce Wisniewski.

Upholding integrity in the workplace: a foundation for success

“Integrity,” one of the Genacross Core Values, is the cornerstone of a thriving work environment. It encompasses honesty, ethical behavior, and a commitment to doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. Integrity in the workplace contributes to organizational success in several ways.

Building Trust and Credibility:

Integrity creates trust and credibility within an organization. When employees consistently act with honesty and transparency, they establish a solid foundation of trust among their colleagues. Trust is essential for effective collaboration, open communication, and teamwork. It fosters an environment where individuals feel safe to share ideas, voice concerns, and take calculated risks. Furthermore, when customers and clients perceive a company as having high integrity, it enhances the organization’s reputation, leading to increased loyalty and business opportunities.

Ethical Decision-Making:

Integrity guides ethical decision-making. In the workplace, individuals encounter situations that require ethical judgment, such as handling confidential information, managing conflicts of interest, or adhering to legal and regulatory requirements. Employees who prioritize integrity are more likely to make decisions that align with the

organization’s values and principles, even in challenging circumstances. By consistently making ethical choices, employees contribute to a culture of integrity that permeates throughout the organization, ensuring that ethical standards are upheld at all levels.

Fostering Accountability and Responsibility:

Integrity promotes accountability and responsibility among employees. When individuals act with integrity, they take ownership of their actions and their impact on others. They hold themselves accountable for their work, meet deadlines, and deliver on their commitments. This sense of responsibility creates a culture of accountability where individuals take pride in their work and strive for excellence. Moreover, when leaders consistently demonstrate integrity, they set an example for employees, inspiring them to uphold the same values and behaviors.

Integrity serves as a guiding principle that shapes the culture and success of an organization. By prioritizing honesty, ethical decision-making, trust-building, and accountability, workplaces can foster a prosperous environment where employees thrive. Upholding integrity in the workplace is not only the right thing to do, but it is also a fundamental driver of long-term success and sustainability.

FORMER VOLUNTEER ESTABLISHES ENDOWED FUND

When reading a book or hearing a story, it is satisfying to see how the main character's life comes full circle. 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 donor to the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation.

Mr. Weirich'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 Lutheran Services began. His mother and grandmother volunteered countless hours to these ministries. He saw the other dedicated volunteers and all they did to help others; and this left a lasting impression on him.

"My volunteer days actually started when I was 11 as a candy striper," Mr. Weirich said. "Ruth Bub, who was over the activities and volunteers, brought me on with a few other kids from St. Mark Lutheran Church in Toledo. Candy strippers refilled water pitchers for the older residents, passed out and read their mail to them, helped them write letters and make notes, and assisted with meal setup and feeding the residents who couldn't do it themselves," he added.

When Mr. Weirich was 15 years old he began working as an orderly, 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," he said.

Many of the staff members encouraged Mr. Weirich to attend nursing school, which is exactly what he ended up doing. He had a long and successful career as a nurse in the Cleveland area. His compassionate disposition helped him bond with his patients. The experiences he had at the Lutheran Orphans' and Old Folks' homes in his early years were useful to him throughout his career.



President/CEO Rick Marshall (left) and Foundation Executive Director Mike George (right) meet with Genacross donor Tim Weirich.

When the time was right, Mr. Weirich reached out to Mike George, Executive Director of the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, and asked to meet to share his stories. "I was so impressed with Tim's recollection of his time volunteering and his ability to remember so many names and positive situations that occurred on our campus when he was growing up. I could tell how special this place is to him," Mr. George said.

After some discussion, Mr. Weirich decided to establish 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.

"The beauty of this endowed fund is that other donors can make gifts into the fund and, as it grows, it will provide earnings in perpetuity to help us continue our mission for years to come," Mr. George said. "We are truly grateful to Tim and his compassion for our residents – past, present and future.

IN MEMORY OF

April 1 - June 30, 2023

Alfred Billow by
Mary J. Billow

Janet Creager by
Steve & Mary Creager

**Walden "Bud"
Damschroder** by Mrs.
Mary A. Damschroder

Felix DeAnda by
Eloisa DeAnda

Homer Diefenthaler
by Kurt & Nancy
Ehrhardt

Marie Eberle by
Diane & Rob Morgan

Irene Ewing by
Charles A. Ewing

**Ron & Mary Lou
Gabel** by Anne Biel

Norma Jean Gast by
Mr. Terry L. Gast

Helen Heacock by
Dennis & Jo Hagey

Jane Hoeffel by
Linda L. Fulde,
Donna M. Kurtz,
Diane Vondeylen

Steve M. Hummer Sr.
by Rebecca B. Woody

**Mrs. Adele
Kreutzfeld** by
Jim & Rachel Nissen

IN MEMORY OF

April 1 - June 30, 2023

Marilyn Lombard

by Donna Smith,
Linwood G. Tucker III
& Carla L. Palmquist-
Tucker

Loved Ones by

Evelyn Gerwin

Susan J.

Montgomery-Outz

by Rev. Anita Marshall
& Mr. Michael
Montgomery

Dave Roberts by Jeff

& Nancy Wellman

Elizabeth Thompson

by Sarah Albrecht

James F, Helen E and

James J. Wheeler by

Sharon Ann Wheeler

Rev. Tom Wilson by

Mrs. Frances Wilson

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

April 1 - June 30, 2023

Anonymous

Bev Apel

Rev. Dr. Gerald Bauer

John & Julia Bergman

Jason Beyer

Marjorie A. Biehler

Louis & Ruth Ann

Boehk

Hilde Boes

Terry Bossert

Chuck & Karen Botzko

Stephen & Deborah

Bowsher

Kari Bucher

Ruby R. Burkey

Christina Burnette

Elizabeth Cannon

Viola Cheatwood

Joe & Judith Conda

James F. Cordy

William Fred

Dais, Ed.S.

Tamara Dawson-

Kynard

Carl & Barbara

Dierksheide

Alan & Mary Ann

Draves

Marlene Ford

Diane M. Frazee

Donna Genzman

Cheri L. Goertz

Robert Haaf

Rev. Richard &

Christine Habrecht

Dennis & Jo Hagey

Victoria & Demetrius

Harris

Herbert & Pat

Hoehing

Sue E. Hoellrich

Rick & Linda Hogrefe

John & Sandra

Husman

John & Joyce Knappe

Dewayne & Bernice

Lohmann

Steve H. Lutz

Beverly Mackey

Rick & Janet Marshall

Carol L. Meuser

Patty & Arthur

Michaelis

Kathy Miller

Mrs. Sherilyn L. Moon

Melanie Moore

Mary Mortemore

Ivadel Nehls

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth

Nungester

Robert & Marie

Obrock

Lee & Janice

Odegard

Lynn & Joyce Olman

Debby Peters

Rev. Dr. Tim & Mrs.

Kate Philabaum

Jeff & Sharon

Przysiecki

Pamela Roberts

Jon T. Russell

Mary Satterfield

Jeff & Lorinda Schalk

Amanda Schroeder

Jeff & Paige Schulte

Jane Sharp

Duane Shively

Scott Slee

Robert & Janis Stein

Melissa Warner

Lynn & John Warren

Linda Weaver

Timothy Weirich

Katie & Jay Zawisza

CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS

April 1 - June 30, 2023

St. Martin's, Archbold

St. Paul,

Bowling Green

St. James, Bradner

Bethlehem, Defiance

(Okolona)

St. John WELCA,

Deshler

Grace, Fremont

St. Mark, Fremont

Providence, Holland

St. Matthew, Lima

St. Peter Ev., Norwalk

St. John, Oak Harbor

Bethlehem,

Pemberville

Church of the Master,

Perrysburg

Zoar, Perrysburg

Resurrection,

Port Clinton

St. Paul,

Sulphur Springs

Olivet, Sylvania

St. Stephen, Sylvania

Bethel, Toledo

First St. John, Toledo

Messiah, Toledo

St. John's, Toledo

St. Petri, Toledo

St. Mark's,

Wapakoneta

Solomon, Woodville

ORGANIZATIONAL DONATIONS

April 1 - June 30, 2023

AmazonSmile Foundation, Seattle, WA

Greater Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.

Key Bank, Toledo

Kroger Community Rewards, Columbus

Plante Moran, PLLC, Toledo

Robison, Curphey & O'Connell, LLC, Toledo

Stapleton Insurance Group, Sylvania

Ed & Sue Stehulak Charitable Fund,

Monroe, MI

Thrivent - Choice Dollars, Appleton, WI

TOPS #1648, Erie, MI

IN HONOR OF

April 1 - June 30, 2023

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Cola's first wedding

anniversary by Mr. and Mrs. William E. Nelson

Sheila Ehrhardt by Kurt and Nancy Ehrhardt

Employees who take care of the residents

by Thomas and Mary Wabeke

John & Sue Hoellrich's wedding anniversary

by Sue E. Hoellrich

The Nungester Family by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth

Nungester

Mr. & Mrs. James Witt's 55th wedding

anniversary by St. John's WELCA, Oak Harbor

If we have failed to list your name or have listed it incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact Mickey at 419.861.4965 to correct our records.

NON-CASH

April 1 - June 30, 2023

Bev Apel

John A. Pezzino

Kathy White

Nondiscrimination and Accessibility Requirements Notice

Genacross Lutheran Services complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

English: ATTENTION: If you speak [insert language], language assistance services, free of charge, are available to you. Call 1-888-546-7745

(TTY: 1-888-546-7745).

Spanish: ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-546-7745 (TTY: 1-888-546-7745).

Chinese: 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-888-546-7745 (TTY: 1-888-546-7745)

THE FRIEND

is published quarterly by
Genacross Lutheran Services.

Kari Bucher, Editor
Bev Apel, Graphic Designer

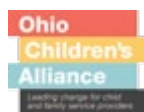
Please send
address changes to:

The Friend
2021 N. McCord Rd.
Toledo, OH 43615-3030
P: 419.861.4990

Some names and
photos in The Friend
are representational.



2021 N. McCord Road
Toledo, OH 43615-3030
GenacrossLutheranServices.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 387

SNAPSHOTS FROM AROUND OUR MINISTRIES

Every day, the ministries of Genacross Lutheran Services are busy creating memories, celebrating life's little moments, and having fun. Our Facebook pages are the easiest way to stay connected with what is happening around Genacross.

Like one or more of our Facebook pages today:

- [Genacross Lutheran Services](#)
(includes housing updates)
- [Genacross at Home](#)
- [Genacross Family and Youth Services](#)
- [Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus](#)
- [Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus](#)
- [Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation](#)



Volunteers from
St. Michael Lutheran
Church, Whiteford
Center, Michigan,
provide a game day for
Luther Haus residents.



Laura Hasyn, Director of Operations for
Family & Youth Services, shares how her
ministry positively impacts youth at the
Donor Appreciation Reception.



Napoleon Campus residents
chat with the Campbell Soup
Kids at the Henry County Fair.



Wolf Creek assisted living
residents celebrate Waffle Day
with a delicious breakfast.



Connect with Genacross Lutheran Services on social media. We are on Facebook and LinkedIn, providing more ways you can learn about, share, and comment on the latest Genacross news and events.

GenacrossLutheranServices.org