



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



October 2023

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Stan," an assisted living resident who has been residing on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years, recently fell and was not quite able to return to his previous level of function. He was hesitant to go to the care center, but knew he was not able to stay safely in his assisted living apartment. The care team met with Stan and his family to walk them through the process and answer any questions. Afterward, he felt more comfortable about receiving short-term nursing care and therapy services in the care center. There was a month of hard work, but Stan grew stronger. While it was slow going at first, he kept with it each day. Finally, he was able to return to his assisted living apartment. Stan thanked the team for supporting him when he felt overwhelmed. He said they made him feel welcome and safe. When he returned home, Genacross at Home services were put in place to support his transition, as well as improve his balance and strength. The care team worked closely together to achieve Stan's goals.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Shirley" was ready to go out for the first time since her fall about a month ago. She had been looking forward to celebrating a birthday with family friends and felt comfortable leaving her home for this gathering because of the successful rehabilitation stay she had at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Prior to her stay, Shirley had fallen in the bathroom of her home. "I just slid to the floor, and I don't remember much," she explained. Shirley needed to get stronger to prevent future falls and be safe at home. She readily admitted that the exercising



in therapy was a challenge for her body. However, Shirley developed a relationship of trust with her therapists, conversing and laughing while they guided her work. She experienced good care around her therapy as well. "I really appreciated what the head nurse did," she said. "I was struggling with the side effects of a pain medication, and she helped to relieve my symptoms." Most of all, Shirley was impressed with the "efficiency" of the care staff at the Wolf Creek Campus compared to other rehab facilities. Overall, she said that her experience was very good, and she would not hesitate to return if she needed care or therapy in the future.



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

“Joseph” was referred to the Genacross Family & Youth Services residential program in April 2023 at 6 years old. He had been living in a foster home with his brother until his negative behaviors increased, and he was removed from the home for lying, stealing food, acting defiantly, and shutting down. Since his arrival at the Oregon group home, he is making slow and steady progress under the daily guidance and support of Genacross staff members. Joseph has weekly goals, and he has been able to meet those and earn outings and activities because of his success. He is also doing well in his mainstream school environment, and he joined a recreational baseball league. He enjoyed playing baseball and learned a great deal from the practices and games. In August, a generous donor provided Genacross with tickets to a Toledo Mud Hens game. Seven youth and three staff members were able to attend the game. As a special part of the evening, Joseph threw out the game’s first pitch. He loved the opportunity and did a great job. Joseph hopes to play baseball again next year and is working hard to make good choices so he can reunify with his mother.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Genacross Lutheran Services has senior affordable housing sites in numerous locations in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. Occasionally, unexpected situations come up at the properties, and many times the maintenance team members are the ones responding first. In addition, they work long hours making sure the housing communities are maintained properly and are warm, welcoming homes for residents. Recently, Luther Oaks senior community in Norwalk, Ohio, experienced a power outage. The senior level maintenance person responsible for the property came out to deal with the problem. “Nancy,” a Luther Oaks resident, expressed her appreciation for his hard work that night. “He was so nice, patrolling with a flashlight, and putting on the generator. He was so compassionate, and we really appreciated his work.” Nancy added that “I just need to let someone know how great he is.” Dedication and work ethic similar to this are exhibited by the maintenance team at all the Genacross housing locations.



GENACROSS AT HOME

“Greg,” who is battling cancer, was referred to Genacross at Home at the age of 60. Following a stay at the hospital, the discharge planner recommended hospices services for when he went home. Greg, however, was not ready for hospice care at the time and wanted to continue with his cancer treatments. Instead, he chose to have Genacross at Home nurses and therapists care for him at home. They helped with his medical needs and strengthening his body. Greg continued with home health care services for several months, but the cancer treatments were taking a toll on his health. Eventually, Greg’s wife expressed concern about Greg’s ability to live at home comfortably. The Genacross at Home team had an honest conversation with Greg and his wife about the benefits of in-home hospice care. Greg was still hesitant, but finally agreed to request hospice services. The Genacross at Home staff continued to care for Greg until hospice was in place. It was hard to say goodbye to Greg, but the Genacross team took comfort knowing he was receiving the best care, in the comfort of his home with family, during the final phase of his life.

FOUNDATION

The Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation recently hosted an estate planning tea at Clara J’s Tea Room in Maumee, Ohio. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about legislative changes regarding individual’s estate plans. The presenters at the event were Marissa Fitzpatrick, an attorney with RCO Law, and David Walkup, Wealth Advisor with Financial Design Group. There were more than 20 guests in attendance, including individuals invited because they are members of the Johannes Doerfler Society, which is comprised of donors who have left gifts to Genacross in their estate plans. Several attendees of the tea remarked that they enjoyed the event and found the information presented useful. This is the first of several planned educational opportunities for Genacross friends and donors in the coming year.