



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



December 2023

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Barbara" came to Genacross Family & Youth Services in January 2022. She had been removed from her home due to her mother's substance abuse and had lived in several different settings and foster homes. Barbara struggled with verbal and physical aggression, property damage, oppositional behavior, AWOL behavior, and self-injurious behaviors. Initially, she was placed at the Oregon Group Home for treatment. Despite the structure and trusting relationships she developed with staff members, her negative behaviors continued. Staff recognized the need for a different setting that would be better suited to Barbara's needs, so she was transitioned to the Maumee Youth Center in July 2022.



During the eight months Barbara spent there, her behaviors improved significantly. She began to demonstrate the ability to manage her emotions, and incidents of angry or emotional outbursts became isolated. She was also more willing to express and process her feelings appropriately.

Barbara was introduced to a family interested in adopting her in December 2022. Contact with the family began with weekly video calls and later progressed to in-person visits, leading up to Barbara being placed with them in March 2023. Since then, she has continued to grow and thrive with her new family. Barbara's adoption took place in October, and she is thrilled to have become an official member of the family. Barbara is incredibly happy and thankful for the family she has found, and she will forever be grateful for the role Genacross has played in her journey.

GENACROSS AT HOME

"Jonathon" is single and had an accident that left him with a wound that was not healing. He is fortunate to have involved family members who wanted to help him recover when he returned home. Jonathon was referred to Genacross at Home for skilled nursing services to provide wound care. A home health nurse has been working with Jonathon and his family to treat his wound. There have been some setbacks, but he continues to stay positive and his family remains very involved in his care. Members of his family come over multiple times a day to reposition Jonathon to stimulate healing and keep his spirits up. They are also becoming more comfortable with the wound care the nurse is teaching them. It has been a privilege for Genacross at Home to partner with the family to provide the best care for Jonathon during his 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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HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Cindy” and “Dale,” who have lived at a Genacross affordable senior community for a couple of years, were having issues with being able to afford the copays for multiple medical specialists. They wanted to lower the cost of copays by switching to another medical insurance provider before open enrollment ended. The service coordinator for their housing site put them in contact with a local insurance agent to help them explore their medical coverage options and find the one that would best fit their needs. The couple decided to switch medical insurance provider, and their copays are now lower for specialist visits. Cindy and Dale are also paying over \$500 each month for their prescriptions. They are currently in the process of switching pharmacies to reduce their costs significantly. They will mail order their medications moving forward, and their prescriptions will be delivered directly to their home.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

A little over a year ago, “Chris” was diagnosed with cancer. He went through radiation and chemotherapy to fight the disease, but his pain was intense and his strength was almost nonexistent. He began taking opioid medication for the pain. His doctors even talked about hospice care, because Chris was too weak to even consider the life-saving surgery he needed. However, Chris opted to try therapy through Genacross at Home to increase his strength. Therapists came to his house and challenged him to do the exercises he could manage. They really cared and diligently worked with him until he was able to have his surgery in May. Afterward, he spent almost a month in the hospital. During that entire time, his only dream was to get back onto his Bobcat tractor and work around the yard again. He continued with home health services after he returned home, and his therapists worked diligently to build up his strength.

Eventually, Chris began outpatient therapy at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. The therapists listened to his concerns and developed creative ways to simulate getting in and out of a Bobcat. They also encouraged him as he slowly began weaning off the opioids, and they helped him get his balance and confidence back. Thanks to the innovative and personal care of the therapists, Chris is much improved and able to operate vehicles safely, including his beloved Bobcat. Through the partnership of Genacross at Home and the Napoleon Campus, the same team of therapists was able to work with Chris throughout his recovery to facilitate a seamless delivery of care and a successful outcome.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Abigail” has lived at Creekside independent living on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for many years. She has maintained her independence and has enjoyed living in a beautiful condominium with a view. She is very social and, three to four times a week, walks over to Wolf Creek’s assisted living and health center to mingle with the residents who live there. Occasionally, she enjoys lunch or dinner with them as well. She also knows nearly every staff member. Recently, Abigail’s family reached out to assisted living management to inquire about a possible transition from Creekside. Abigail was reluctant to inquire about moving for fear she would lose her independence. Staff assured her that she could still come and go as she pleases in assisted living, and, since she already knows most everyone, it should be an easy transition. After viewing an apartment, Abigail took a few days to think about it. Soon, she was asking questions about moving, and staff members handled her hesitation with patience. When Abigail decided to move into assisted living, everyone was excited about her decision. One of the benefits of the Wolf Creek Campus is that it offers a continuum of care that allows residents to age in place and meet their changing needs.

FOUNDATION

A few months ago, the Genacross Lutheran Service Foundation received a \$14,000 grant from the Grace A. Gossens Memorial Fund through the Greater Toledo Community Foundation (GTCF). This is a competitive grant that the GTCF awards yearly. “We are very excited to have been awarded these funds,” said Mike George, Executive Director of the Genacross Foundation. The memorial fund’s purpose is to assist organizations that support the daily living needs of elderly women residing in long-term facilities and offset expenses associated with life-enhancing items. “At Genacross, the grant will help us assist low-income women from Lucas County residing at our Wolf Creek Campus,” Mr. George explained. The grant can be used to help purchase essentials, clothing, hearing aids, and other needed items to improve the residents’ quality of life.