

The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CIX NO. 4 CHRISTMAS 2023

*May you have the gift of faith,
the blessing of hope and
the peace of His love at
Christmas and always!*



FORMER SANDUSKY CAMPUS HOLDS NEW ADULT DAY CENTER

The former Genacross Lutheran Services-Sandusky Campus, closed by Genacross at the end of 2017, has renewed life courtesy of the Erie County Health Department's new adult day care housed in the building. The Compass Point Senior Enrichment Center opened on November 1, 2023.

The health department is leasing a portion of the building, located at 795 Bardshar Road in Sandusky, for adult day services. The center is using about 8,000 square feet of the common space on the west side of the building, including the entry, multi-purpose/activity room (including the former chapel area), conference room, lounge, and some staff rooms.

The senior enrichment center provides a safe, interactive and healthy environment for adults age 55 years old and older, including dementia sufferers, to meet new friends and participate in structured activities that stimulate the mind and body. At the same time, the center provides a needed respite for caregivers.

"We have an ongoing relationship with the Erie County Health Department, which previously had leased the building during the

continued on page 3



The former chapel at the Sandusky Campus is now used for activities.

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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

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A note from

RICK MARSHALL

President and CEO



Holiday Blessings

During the holiday season each year, I find myself even more grateful for the work we are called to do at Genacross Lutheran Services.

Thanksgiving brought the warmth of friends and fellowship to each of our ministries. Residents at our care campuses gathered for special meals with their families and our team members. The youth we serve helped prepare their own

meals and shared in a Thanksgiving Day celebration like many of them have never experienced. Potluck dinners were common at our affordable independent living locations. It is a blessing to see the appreciation of those we serve and be reminded that we provide so much more than a place to live. Our residents are part of our family, and we work hard to meet their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

As we look forward to Christmas, there will be countless gifts shared among our communities. For the youth in our care, we are fortunate to partner with a number of business organizations to provide gifts. The magic of Christmas becomes a reality for youth who would otherwise be unable to celebrate and unlikely to receive a gift. On our care campuses and senior housing sites, residents decorate and share meals to bring the holiday spirit to the places they call home.

In addition, everyone is encouraged to find hope in the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ. Chaplains and volunteers conduct special worship services throughout our ministries, all pointing to the true reason for why we celebrate the season.

Of course, much of this would not be possible without the support of our member congregations and donors. Throughout the holiday season, I am also amazed by the volunteers who engage with our residents and work alongside our staff. Our ministry is a partnership with our church family, community members, and donors. Lives are touched and changed forever through the work of all of us connected to Genacross. I am grateful for our shared calling.

As we celebrate the holidays, my thoughts turn to Paul's words: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Philippians 1:3-7

Wishing you the peace of Christ and God's abundant blessings during this Christmas season and the New Year ahead.

Blessings,

Genacross Organizational Integrity Program

INTEGRITY CORE VALUE RELATES TO ALL EMPLOYEES

Integrity lies at the heart of every successful organization, and Genacross Lutheran Services understands its significance in fostering a culture of trust, transparency, and ethical behavior. The Genacross Organizational Integrity Program (OIP) serves as a guiding framework for employees, emphasizing the core value of “Integrity” and its relevance to each individual within the organization.

1. Defining Integrity: It is the unwavering commitment to moral and ethical principles. It encompasses honesty, accountability, and consistency in actions and decisions, even in the face of challenges or temptations. For Genacross, integrity is not just a buzzword but a fundamental value that shapes the organization’s identity and reputation.

2. Integrity and Employees: At Genacross, integrity starts with each employee. By upholding the highest standards of ethical conduct, employees build trust among colleagues, residents, and the community. Acting with integrity means being honest and transparent in communications, maintaining confidentiality when required, and demonstrating fairness and respect in all interactions.

3. Integrity and Service Delivery: Integrity extends beyond internal interactions and influences how Genacross delivers services to its residents. Upholding integrity in service delivery means providing compassionate care, respecting diversity, ensuring the well-being and dignity of those served, and safeguarding the rights and privacy of residents.

4. Integrity and Decision-Making: Integrity plays a vital role in the decision-making processes at every level of the organization. Employees are expected to make decisions that are guided by ethical considerations, putting the interests of residents and the organization above personal gain. By adhering to the principles of integrity, employees contribute to a culture of trust, where decisions are made in the best interest of all stakeholders.

5. Integrity and Organizational Culture: Integrity serves as the bedrock of the Genacross organizational culture. By fostering a culture of integrity, Genacross promotes a positive work environment where employees feel empowered to speak up, share concerns, and report any potential ethical violations without fear of retribution.

6. Organizational Integrity Program: The OIP outlines the organization’s commitment to integrity and provides employees with the necessary tools and resources to uphold this core value. The program reinforces the notion that integrity is a shared responsibility and encourages everyone at Genacross to actively participate in maintaining a culture of integrity and a commitment to excellence.

OIP comments, questions, concerns, and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged, and may be directed to Jason Morris, Vice President of Human Resources, at 419.861.4912 or JaMorris@Genacross.org.

Former Sandusky Campus - continued from front page

COVID-19 pandemic,” said Rick Marshall, Genacross President/CEO. “They leased the building as an overflow facility if additional hospital beds were needed in Erie County, although no pandemic patients were ever sent to the building.”

The health department made numerous improvements to the existing building, including updating the fire suppression and water system, repairing ceilings and drywall, putting in new carpet, fixing up the building exterior and parking lot.

“We are very excited that this partnership with the health department allowed an idle, empty building to become useful to seniors and their families in Erie County,” Mr. Marshall explained. “Since the closure of the Sandusky

Campus, we have been looking for more ways to continue our ministry in the Sandusky area.”

Compass Point Senior Enrichment Center is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. For more information, interested individuals can email adultday@echdohio.org or call 419.502.1020.

The senior enrichment center uses a portion of the west side of the building for services.



YOUTH EXPERIENCE FUN TIME AT URBAN AIR

The day before Thanksgiving, youth in care at Genacross Family & Youth Services were treated to a fun-filled visit to the Urban Air Adventure Park in Toledo. More than 60 youth and 40 staff members participated in the donor-sponsored event.

“The youth really enjoyed all the activities Urban Air has to offer,” said Katie Zawisza, Family & Youth Services Executive Director. “The favorite activity probably was driving the go-karts and racing each other around the track.”

The trampolines, zip line, slides, climbing wall and ball pit obstacle courses were hits as well. Youth also spent time jumping while shooting basketballs and playing dodgeball in the netted area.



Youth in care navigate the ropes course at Urban Air during a fun sponsored event.

Being at Urban Air “was the most fun I have ever had!” said one young boy while playing. Another girl exclaimed, “I had so much fun and can’t wait to come back!” As they were leaving, many children were heard saying that “it was nice of someone to do this for us.”

“Staff members observed the kids enjoying their time, doing activities they may not have had the opportunity to do before, and just being happy kids,” Ms. Zawisza explained. “This experience allows the staff to reward youth for good behavior and choices, spend quality time with the kids, and watch them fully engage in healthy play activities.”

Youth did stop playing long enough to enjoy pizza and pop generously provided by donors Chris and Kathy White. This is the second event at Urban Air this year that the Whites have funded for the Genacross youth in care.

Napoleon Campus honors veterans for their service

The Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus honored its veterans on November 10, 2023. The Napoleon Campus was proud to recognize eight veterans with a pinning ceremony and luncheon.

The veterans included residents who served in the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy. Residents honored were Army veterans Paul Burkhart, Robert Burroughs, Earnest Raker, David Stough, and Edmund Weaver and Navy veterans Robert Bruns, Ed Panning, and Gilbert Sonnenburg. Those who passed away in 2023 were remembered on a mantel during the ceremony.

The ceremony opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the reading of “In Flanders Fields” by poet John McCrae. Each veteran was then acknowledged by name and branch of the military and pinned in honor of their service.

In addition, maintenance staff member James Helmke provided a hand-crafted wooden pen for each veteran as a gift. After the ceremony, all veterans and their guests were treated to a luncheon with ribs, baked potato, coleslaw, and cake.

“We have an incredible staff who made this all happen for these deserving veterans,” said Casey Amonette Napoleon Campus Executive Director. “It is imperative that we honor these heroes who fought so hard for the freedoms we enjoy today.”



The patriotically decorated cake was a delicious part of the luncheon held to thank veterans.

FALL ACTIVITIES AT WOLF CREEK LEAD TO GIVING THANKS

The residents of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus partake in many traditional Thanksgiving activities, whether it be family gatherings, a special meal, stories shared, a pause for reflection, or maybe a football game on TV.

While some residents are able to leave the campus to visit with family for the holiday, others have their loved ones come to the Wolf Creek Campus to spend time together. For residents who are without family nearby, the Wolf Creek community willingly becomes their family.

Regardless of a resident's situation, activities staff spend the days leading up to Thanksgiving creating space for residents to reflect and create. Small groups of residents discuss Thanksgivings past and holiday traditions they experienced throughout their lives. Craft projects focus on the holidays, including possible Christmas gifts and decorations.



Resident John Stewart displays his fall craft project.

“For our residents, their past defines who they are,” said Activities Director Vicki Ropp. “So we want to allow them to recreate those moments and not forget where they came from. We stand in as the hearers of their stories.”

The day prior to Thanksgiving, residents gather for a Wolf Creek tradition, a service of prayer jointly led by representatives of St. Joan of Arc Catholic Parish and Wolf Creek's Lutheran chaplain. Because of distinct sacrament beliefs, Protestants and Catholics often worship separately on campus, but Thanksgiving is one holiday where both gather around the common practice of giving thanks. A pie social follows the prayer service.

Then, of course, Thanksgiving Day features a special meal for the residents to enjoy. “We have turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, and a choice of pumpkin or sweet potato pie,” said Dietary Director Sarita Smith.

Teamwork rewards housing site with perfect REAC score

Regular inspections of the Genacross affordable housing locations are an important part of ensuring that the senior communities are safe and up to code for residents. The required inspections, called Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) inspections, are done through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

“These inspections are a critical step in making sure our residents have a safe place that they are proud to call home,” said Emite Davis, Director of Maintenance. “Staff at each of our communities work hard to prepare for them, so we continue to receive funding for the HUD-financed properties.”

The REAC inspections are conducted by contracted inspectors and involve a thorough assessment of the property's grounds, building exteriors, building systems, common areas, and units. They are held every 1-3 years depending on each property's most recent score – the better the score the longer between inspections.

Employees involved with the perfect REAC inspection score at Covenant Harbor include: (left to right) Melanie Moore, Director of Compliance; Celest Clough, Service Coordinator; Nina Dabrunz, Manager; Jackie Feasel and David Foster, maintenance team members; and Emite Davis, Director of Maintenance.

Each inspection involves the site manager, service coordinator, maintenance team members, director of maintenance, and the director of compliance. The teamwork of these staff members at Covenant Harbor senior community in Oak Harbor, Ohio, on August 31, 2023, resulted in a perfect REAC score.

“It is very difficult to get a perfect score,” said Amanda Schroeder, Vice President of Home & Community-Based Service. “That achievement is a testament to the dedication and experience of our housing staff.”



DONORS FUND NEW FAMILY & YOUTH BASKETBALL COURT



(Left to right) Foundation Executive Director Mike George, donor Terry L. Bossert, Hylant representative Sue Eidenier, and President/CEO Rick Marshall open the new basketball court.

Since the end of August, the youth living and going to school at the Genacross Maumee Youth Center in Liberty Center, Ohio, have been playing on a new basketball court funded by generous donors through the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation.

“The old court had been in bad shape for quite a while and was virtually unusable for the youth,” said Katie Zawisza, Family & Youth Services Executive Director. “Now, many of the kids exercise on the new court almost every day, and it helps them expend some of their boundless energy.”

The new basketball court was funded by two loyal Genacross benefactors. Donor Terry L. Bossert provided the funds needed for the new asphalt court to be installed, and Hylant Inc. donated the basketball poles and equipment.

The youth were released from classes to attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 28, 2023, and cheered when the basketball court was open for play. Before heading back to class, the kids enjoyed doughnuts and punch to celebrate.

“The court was made possible through the support of generous donors, who fund many valuable projects to enhance the lives of residents,” said Mike George, Foundation Executive Director.

Don't forget year-end giving

Remember to consider Genacross Lutheran Services for end-of-year giving. A charitable gift donated by December 31, 2023, may garner a charitable tax deduction for you. That's great, but what if you cannot use the deduction?

Here are a couple of other ideas:

- You can give appreciated assets (stocks, real estate, etc.) and avoid paying any capital gains tax. Instead of selling, give it to Genacross before the sale.*
- Even though required minimum distributions (RMDs) do not start until age 73, direct donations from an IRA or IRA rollover are allowed starting at age 70½. You can give up to \$100,000 per year this way, regardless of RMDs. This earned income is never taxed because it goes directly to Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation.*

These are two smart ways to give. Want more information on ways to give or help with these processes? Contact Mike George, Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation Executive Director, at 419.861.4964 or MiGeorge@Genacross.org.

*As always, please consult your attorney and/or financial advisor before moving forward with any of these examples to see how it impacts you and your taxes individually.

IN MEMORY OF

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

Carol Ardner by Anonymous, Karen Ardner, Michael & Laura Bokesch, Christina L. Dominique, Sharon Henning, Jean Spratt

Sue, Michael & Megan Brown by Mary Schimming

My Granddaughter, Audrey Bucher, by Kari Bucher

LeRoy & Nellie Carter by Elaine S. Gladieux

Our Granddaughter Ashley (Snyder) Case by Herb & Jackie Roder

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

Felix DeAnda Jr. by Eloisa Deanda

Norma Jean Gast by Mr. Terry L. Gast

Fred & Dorothy Hagen by Marie Hagen

My Father, Gary Hesburn, by Kari Bucher

Rev. Gerald & Ilean Labuhn by Marie Hagen, Cindy & Dave Herrera

Elmer & Beatrice Lanzer by Vivian R. Lanzer

Loved Ones by Mr. & Mrs. William E. Nelson

Eleanor & Carl Mock Sr. by Dr. & Mrs. Michael Roetter Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Nissen by Jim & Rachel Nissen

Melvin & Luetta Papenfus by Marie Hagen

Tom Rosebrock by Marilyn Rosebrock

Clyde Sandrock by Mary Schimming

Milton Schimming by Mary Schimming

IN MEMORY OF

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

John & Brodie Schmich by Debbie, Brandon & Brenton Schmich
Clyde & Marian Sluhan by William & Carol Sluhan
Virginia Smith by Kurt & Nancy Ehrhardt

Stacey Spart by Thomas E. Spart
Betty Thompson by Pamela G. Roberts
John & Hazel Warrington by Steve & Kathy Warrington
Rev. Tom Wilson, my husband, by Mrs. Frances Wilson

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

Anonymous
 Bev Apel
 Rev. Dr. Gerald Bauer
 Jason Beyer
 Jim & Katy Bingle
 Hilde Boes
 Terry Bossert
 Stephen & Deborah Bowsher
 Kari Bucher
 Christina Burnette
 Janus Burton
 Rev. Charles & Mrs. Jeri Campbell
 Ronda Campbell
 Elizabeth Cannon
 Beth Charvat
 Jane Claussen
 Jane & Jack Comune
 James F. Cordy
 Sarah Corney
 Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Terry Cripe
 Richard & Lola Crouse
 Tamara Dawson-Kynard
 Carl & Barbara Dierksheide
 Alan & Mary Ann Draves
 Jason & Cheryl Fisher
 Diane M. Frazee
 Glenn Geldien
 Michael A. George
 Don & Sue Gerke

Merle & Ruth Haar
 Randy & Annette Hardy
 Victoria & Demetrius Harris
 John & Linda Henry
 Marti Huepenbecker
 Pastor Keith & Sue Hunsinger
 Eric & Cindy Johnson
 John & Joyce Knappe
 Rochelle Krolak
 K. Linden Kuhn
 Dan & Julie Kunos
 Peter Lavalette
 Paul Lehman
 Burt & Mary Ann Luring
 Steve H. Lutz
 Beverly Mackey
 Ian P. Malhoit & Alanna Pully
 Rev. Anita Marshall & Mr. Michael Montgomery
 Rick & Janet Marshall
 Vince & Laurie Mauro
 Carol L. Meuser
 Melanie Moore
 Mary Mortemore
 Ivadel Nehls
 Paul Nelson
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nungester

Mrs. Janice E. Odegaard
 Lynn & Joyce Olman
 Frank & Diane Paine
 Debby Peters
 Bob & Sue Pfefferle
 Rev. Dr. Tim & Mrs. Kate Philabaum
 Mrs. Launita Plassman
 Diane Pojedynski
 Jeff & Sharon Przysiecki
 Ann Ray
 Suzanne Riehl
 Michele Ross
 Jon T. Russell
 Jeff & Lorinda Schalk
 Rev. & Mrs. Logan Scheiwe
 Amanda Schroeder
 Victor Schuerman
 Jane Sharp
 Duane Shively
 Scott Slee
 Robert L. Storer
 Thomas & Mary Wabeke
 David Walkup
 Melissa Warner
 Lynn & John Warren
 Linda Weaver
 Sharon Ann Wheeler
 Mary Widmer
 Lee & Paula Wunschel
 Katie & Jay Zawisza

IN HONOR OF

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

Creekside Residents by Pamela G. Roberts
The Four Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke & John by John Weislmeier
Dale Genter's 70th Birthday by Janice C. Rohrs
Grandchildren by Nancy R. Hardin
Dorothy Riehl by Erich A. Riehl
Thankfulness to God by Jeannette Kubitz
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Witt's 60th Wedding Anniversary by St. John's WELCA, Oak Harbor

CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

St. Martin, Archbold
 St. Paul, Blissfield, MI
 St. Paul,
 Bowling Green
 St. Paul, Defiance
 Immanuel, Deshler
 Grace, Elmore
 Grace, Fremont
 St. Mark, Fremont
 Providence, Holland
 St. Matthew, Lima
 St. Peter, Norwalk
 St. John, Oak Harbor
 St. Michael,
 Ottawa Lake, MI
 Bethlehem,
 Pemberville
 Church of the Master,
 Perrysburg

Zoar, Perrysburg
 Zion, Petersburg, MI
 Resurrection,
 Port Clinton
 St. Paul,
 Sulphur Springs
 Olivet, Sylvania
 Bethel, Toledo
 Concordia, Toledo
 First St. John, Toledo
 Memorial, Toledo
 Messiah, Toledo
 Our Saviour Toledo
 St. Lucas, Toledo
 St. Petri, Toledo
 Zion, Waterville
 Community of Christ,
 Whitehouse
 Solomon, Woodville

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.

ORGANIZATIONAL DONATIONS

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

CWS Environmental, Perrysburg
 ECS Solutions, Dublin
 Kroger Community Rewards, Columbus
 Marshall Melhorn, LLC, Toledo
 Perrysburg Rotary Service Foundation
 Thrivent Charitable Impact & Investing,
 Appleton, WI
 TOPS #1648, Oregon

NON-CASH

July 1 - Sept. 30, 2023

Bev Apel
 John & Noreen Pezzino

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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)

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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](#)

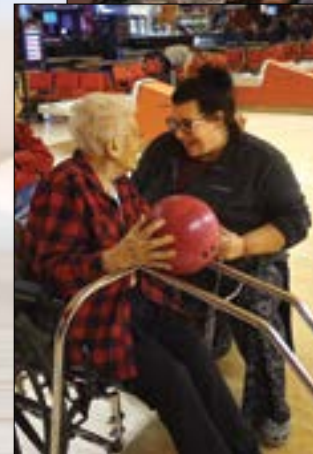
*Napoleon Campus
resident Joyce
Agner is joined by
her grandson for
Thanksgiving dinner.*



*Luther Crest housing resident
Brad Spray rolls up his sleeve
for a flu shot.*



*The monthly men's breakfast at the
Wolf Creek Campus is a place for good
food and fellowship.*



*Bowling is a
fun activity for
Napoleon Campus
residents and staff.*



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