



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



January 2024

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

At the beginning of January, a maintenance person working at the Genacross Luther Meadow senior community in Gibsonburg reported that there had been a flood in one of the resident's apartments. On-site housing team members all worked together to help the resident, "Joanna," clean up and assess the damage. Joanna had left the water running for a few hours and by the time she had caught it, the water had reached her bathroom, bedroom, hallway, and living room and dining area. They set up fans and tried to get up as much of the water as they could from the floor. When housing team members returned the next day, they decided the water damage was extensive enough that Joanna needed to be moved temporarily into a different apartment so that her health was not compromised. The service coordinator helped Joanna make phone calls to her insurance company and file a claim for the items that were damaged. Other team members called a company to come move her undamaged belongings to a new apartment. In addition, they had another team come in and gather together such items as clothing, dolls, yarn, and bedding that needed to be cleaned. Working together, the housing team members made a traumatic situation for Joanna not quite so difficult.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Bridget" loves living in her assisted living apartment on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. "I never thought I would be here," Bridget said. After her first stroke, she was still living in her house. Then one morning, she could not get up. After her second stroke, "they thought I'd be in bed all the time, but I fooled them!" Discharged from the hospital after the second stroke, she stayed briefly with her daughter.



Then she rehabbed at the Wolf Creek Campus Health Center until moving to assisted living. "It is great here to have my own bathroom, bedroom, TV room, and a place to fix a meal," Bridget explained. For Bridget, her apartment – a space that is her own – has enhanced her life. Her daughter is pleased that Bridget has a social life with other Wolf Creek residents, as well as building relationships with her care team of nurses and aides. "The staff that work here, they did my nails yesterday," said Bridget. "Everyone is so nice to me, helping me with what I need. Every meal time they check on me. Today my feet were hurting, and I didn't go down. They offered to bring lunch up and do whatever to make me comfortable."

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GENACROSS AT HOME

"Betty" has been with Genacross at Home for over a month after having back surgery. She receives physical therapy and occupational therapy services in her home. Betty's daughter is very involved in the care Betty needs. Betty's daughter shared with the therapists that her mother's pain continues to increase, and this is causing the strengthening exercises to be taxing for Betty to complete. The Genacross at Home therapists spoke with her daughter about a procedure the family may want to discuss with Betty's surgeon. The procedure would help alleviate Betty's pain. The therapists also told them that a skilled nursing facility stay may be needed after the surgery to help build her strength. Betty's daughter set an appointment with her mother's surgeon to discuss the procedure, but she was growing increasingly concerned about Betty's pain and contacted the Genacross at Home office. The team suggested having Betty admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus until the time of the consultation with the surgeon. The Genacross at Home and Wolf Creek Campus teams are coordinating Betty's admission to the Wolf Creek Campus, so she will get the pain relief and nursing and therapy services she needs to keep improving.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Janae" came to the Genacross Maumee Youth Center in April 2022 at the age of 10. She had a long history of neglect and functioned at a 5-year-old level. When Janae first came to Genacross, she was mostly nonverbal and very difficult to understand. She struggled to express her feelings, needs and wants. She also was fearful of everyone and struggled to accomplish simple tasks because she lacked the ability to pay attention. Janae also demonstrated behaviors such as growling, barking and scratching as if she were an animal.

Fast forward almost a year and a half, and through the hard work, care, and compassion of the staff and clinical team, Janae is now able to communicate verbally and be understood by everyone. She also has learned to read and has done very well in school. In addition, Janae can now sit and focus to complete tasks and likes to help staff members. She loves hugs from everyone, and most of all likes to make sure that she tells each of her staff goodnight at the end of each day. Janae recently went on a long visit with her family and then returned to live with them. This successful outcome was made possible through the treatment and care she received during her placement with Genacross Family & Youth Services.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Jeremy" came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus extremely compromised from a recent illness. He had several wounds that had developed because he was unable to get up while in the hospital. He was not eating well, and, throughout his stay at the Napoleon Campus, there were several times when he experienced medical complications. Jeremy is diabetic and his blood sugar levels fluctuated, and this also caused challenges with his care. However, through all of the ups and downs, Jeremy has remained positive and vowed to get better. For the majority of his stay, he was confined to bed because of his fragile skin condition. However, due to the diligence of the nursing staff and his wound care physician, Jeremy is turning the corner. He is now getting up in his wheelchair and moving around the facility. His skin is healing, after more than a year of ongoing treatment and care. Jeremy's goal is to return home to his wife, and staff members continue to help him achieve that goal.

FOUNDATION

Team members from RE/MAX Preferred Associates in Toledo, Ohio, made the Christmas season one to remember with their gifts to Genacross Family & Youth Services. The group donated personal hygiene bags for all the children in care. They also donated goodie bags for every staff member in the Family & Youth program. In addition, they purchased a new couch for the Adrian Group Home. Arlene Gerig, realtor and Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation Board member, spearheaded the donations along with John Mangas, head of RE/MAX Preferred. The youth and staff members showed their appreciation by creating homemade thank you notes for the associates at RE/MAX Preferred. The spirit of giving is alive and well in so many of the donors and supporters of Genacross Lutheran Services.