



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



April 2024

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

A few years ago, there was a girl who carried the weight of the world on her small shoulders. At just 11 years old, “Madison” had seen more than most adults could imagine. She fiercely loved her family and took on the role of protector. She spent nights in their car, keeping watch over dangers both inside and out. As Madison grew, however, so did her understanding of the threats surrounding them. Later, she was separated from her family and placed in the care of the state as a consequence of her parents’ battles with addiction. Madison struggled with thoughts too burdensome for her mind to comprehend, immersing her into moments of darkness where hope seemed distant.



Eventually, she came to Genacross Family & Youth Services for care and shelter, but trust did not come easy. Madison rebelled, tested boundaries, and was unsure if she could trust these new people in her life. She also got into fights, tried drugs, landed in juvenile jail, engaged in inappropriate talk, and tried to manipulate staff. Later, she realized the care was for her safety, and she began to transform into a role model. Slowly, Madison learned that the staff members were not her adversaries, but her guardians. They showed her kindness and understanding, offering her a glimmer of hope in the darkness. And in their care, Madison found the courage to dream once more. Two years later, she has emerged stronger, healthier, beautiful, and mindful. As Madison prepared to leave Genacross for a new forever home, she carried with her the scars of the past, but also the promise of a brighter tomorrow. Madison vows to pay forward the kindness she received from Genacross staff, embracing the role as older sibling in her new family.

GENACROSS AT HOME

When “Adam” was discharged from the hospital, he needed in-home health care services. He opted to use Genacross at Home for his care needs. He had limited use of his arms and legs and, because of severe medical complications, had lost the ability to talk and swallow. Genacross at Home staff members started working with Adam, providing nursing care, as well as speech, occupational, and physical therapies. Nursing staff has been teaching Adam to care for himself medically and managing his medication. Speech therapy has helped him regain his ability to swallow, and he is now eating such foods as gelatin and soup. Physical and occupational therapists have been working with Adam to regain his strength and to improve his fine motor skills, so he will eventually be able to care for himself. Adam has made great progress and is looking forward to gaining even more of his independence.

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

The service coordinator at Luther Woods senior community in west Toledo met with “David” to complete his initial assessment as a new resident. During the assessment, David informed the coordinator that he had suffered a stroke years ago that still affects his short-term memory. He shared with the coordinator his struggles navigating the building because of his memory issues, unsteady gait, and shortness of breath. After hearing this, the service coordinator suggested that David have Genacross at Home come to his apartment for therapy services. She explained how Genacross at Home can assist him with navigating his new environment and his unsteadiness. After checking that Genacross at Home accepted David’s insurance so he would not have to pay out-of-pocket expenses, the coordinator contacted his primary care physician’s office and requested that orders for home health care be sent to Genacross at Home. Upon receiving the orders, Genacross home health therapists evaluated David in his apartment. As a result, physical, occupational and speech therapists are working with David for the next few months to improve bed transfers, medication management, his unsteady gait, and shortness of breath while walking. In addition, the service coordinator at Luther Woods has put up more signage to help David with finding his way around the building. Genacross at Home and the service coordinator will continue to observe and assist David as needed.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Hi Beautiful!” is one of “Elaine’s” direct and welcoming greetings. She has always been good at engaging with people during her years living on the Wolf Creek Campus. That is also how Elaine has dealt with her dementia diagnosis. She leaned into it, accepting that she increasingly would not be able to remember pieces of her life. Elaine lived for many years in Wolf Creek’s Creekside Condominiums before making the decision – of her own accord – that it was time to move into assisted living. Later, recognizing her daily needs were growing, she made the decision to move to the Health Center for skilled nursing care. Elaine does things on her own terms. “My father taught me to be that way – to be my own person,” she explained. Safe and comfortable in her home, Elaine freely uses her imagination to engage in whimsy. Her room and creative mind are populated by a cast of characters including a stuffed reindeer named Rudy and a baby doll named Pumpkin. Elaine’s outgoing personality attracts others to her orbit. One resident on her hall – a friend who she knew in assisted living – often accompanies her to various activities. At the Wolf Creek Campus, Elaine has received a continuum of care and support as her needs have changed. In turn, Elaine has blessed the community by being her engaging, direct, and whimsical self and welcoming everyone.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Ellie” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after an outpatient procedure. While the procedure itself was not serious, she had several complicating medical issues that made an immediate return home impossible. In addition, Ellie’s nature was to keep busy, and she had several restrictions to follow to ensure she fully recuperated and did not re-injure herself. Ellie was admitted to the Napoleon Campus for rehabilitation, and, over the course of 10 days, she received the appropriate care and therapy to allow her to heal. When Ellie was ready to go home, she and her family were extremely pleased with the care she had received and how effective her therapy had been during her recuperation. Even during short-term stays, the Napoleon Campus staff is able to make patients and their families feel comfortable and confident about the care and services they receive.

FOUNDATION

Recently, a groundbreaking was held for the next senior adaptive pocket park to be built for residents of the adjoining Luther Crest and Luther Woods senior communities. The newest park will focus on the mind to boost memory and alertness. It is being built around the Luther Crest gazebo and will feature benches, a table for chess and checkers, and garden sculptures. The pocket park project was created to offer Genacross residents socialization opportunities and overall health and wellness experiences. The first pocket park was completed in 2023 and focuses on the environment to promote relaxation and healing. The second mind-focused park is made possible by grants from the Terhune Fund at KeyBank, Rolf Goffman Martin Lang, LLP and Country Garden Club of Perrysburg. Stephen Bowe, Senior Vice President/Market Leader at Key Private Bank representing the Terhune Fund, addressed attendees at the groundbreaking. He emphasized the importance of socialization among older adults and how this project aligns well with the Terhune Fund’s mission to help nonprofit organizations realize their goals to create better communities.