



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



August 2024

HOME & COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES

“Lois,” a resident who has lived at Luther Pines senior community in Lima, Ohio, for over five years, was having a hard time keeping her medications straight because of her poor eyesight. The site’s service coordinator explained to her about an online pharmacy that provides pre-sorted medications in easily dispensed packets. The clearly labeled packets prevent medications from getting mixed up or missed. Lois decided to sign up with the pharmacy, and the service coordinator helped transfer her prescriptions. Lois is very content with the new process for her medications. The service coordinator has helped Lois in other ways over the years, including connecting her with the Sight Center of Northwest Ohio. The organization made modifications to the kitchen in her apartment so she can function more effectively. Lois also loves the manageable size of her apartment, which makes it possible to live independently with her vision problems.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Despite being unable to drive, “Tammy” had built a life for herself in her independent living apartment. She had friends in her building, family who visited her, and nearby family members to visit. She also went to church, Bible study and occasional outings. When she had a fall, Tammy’s life changed abruptly when she experienced a 10-day hospital stay. She was bored and wanted to be outside in the fresh air. “I was looking for a place for rehabilitation, but I needed an individual room because of a medical condition,” she said. “Other places wouldn’t take me, but the Wolf Creek Campus would. I’m so glad they did. I love this place!” Over the next two weeks at the Health Center on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, Tammy made big strides in therapy. She had been afraid that she would never be able to walk again, but recently, she walked 150 feet with a walker, exceeding her goal of 125 feet. Tammy still uses a wheelchair to get around campus, but her improved strength and resilience will help safeguard her independence. During her rehab stay, she has spent a great deal of time outside in the gardens by the front entrance. That will be ending soon though, as plans are being finalized for her discharge, and Tammy is excited about being able to return home.



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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GENACROSS AT HOME



“Betty,” who lived with her son because of health issues, recently experienced a short hospital stay. After the inpatient stay, hospital staff recommended that she consider moving to a long-term care facility. Betty and her son, however, wanted her to return home with the help of a home health agency. Subsequently, Genacross at Home visited Betty and her son to teach and train them about the care she needed. After only a couple weeks of home visits, the Genacross at Home team realized she required more daily care. One of the nurses contacted Betty’s primary care physician and discussed the team’s concerns. The physician agreed with Genacross at Home’s assessment of Betty’s undesirable living situation. Moving forward, Genacross at Home, the physician, and the family will work together to coordinate care and secure the best placement for Betty.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Sadie” lived for many years with her biological mom, moving from state to state. During that time, she experienced severe abuse, and protective services often had to remove her from her mother’s home. In early childhood, Sadie began displaying temper outbursts. As she got older, these outbursts grew more extreme, with her actions hurting herself and others. She also suffered from hallucinations and nightmares about her past abuse. Sadie was residing in a psychiatric hospital in Michigan at the time she was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services for care and treatment. When she was placed at the Maumee Youth Center, her caseworker was amazed that the staff was not fazed by the description of her behaviors.

Since placement, Sadie has responded well to the program’s structure, and staff has realized that she responds best to nurturing and guidance. She did well in the structured setting of the on-site school as well, receiving As and Bs on her grade cards. In addition, Sadie has individual counseling once or twice each week. She also participates in group therapy five days a week and other forms of treatment when available. She has made such progress that she began this school year at Four County Career Center, where she attends half days in the floral design program. She began this two-year program as a junior. The program has supplied floral arrangements for honors banquets and weddings, and participated in a show at the Toledo Zoo. Sadie often brings home the faux flower arrangements and is working with Genacross to share them with the organization’s continuing care communities for older adults.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

For many months, “Wayne” had lived alone with help from home health aides. After much discussion with his family, though, they decided that he had reached the point where he could not live by himself any longer. Due to dialysis, he had become very weak and was dependent on outside help. Subsequently, Wayne came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus to live. He stayed in nursing care for two months and enjoyed it because he felt well cared for by the staff. The constant “checks” reassured him. Wayne was always very positive and smiled to staff and other residents. He regained his strength and some independence, and staff felt he would be appropriate for the campus’ assisted living. He was no longer fearful of falling and had the confidence to live on his own again. Wayne is now enjoying life in his assisted living apartment. “I love the freedom of being able to do whatever I want,” he said. “I feel like I’ve turned over a new leaf. I am so happy with my accomplishments.” Wayne is adjusting well to his new home, and he is enjoying his independence and playing bingo again.

FOUNDATION

Those who attended “An Evening with Jim Tressel” on July 25 at the Pinnacle had an incredible opportunity to learn about the vital services Genacross provides to the community and how the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation supports those efforts. Coach Tressel, who led the Ohio State football team for 10 seasons, began the evening by meeting with sponsors of the event and graciously signing autographs and posing for photographs. All attendees heard a powerful testimony from Steven Brinkman, a former resident of the Genacross Family & Youth Services program, and the incredible impact Genacross had on his life. They also heard inspiring anecdotes about football, faith and life during an engaging discussion between Coach Tressel and James Starks, 13abc news anchor and the evening’s emcee. The evening concluded with questions from the audience and more autographs and pictures with fans.