



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services

October 2024

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

In the summer of 2022, a young boy named “Joe” entered the care of Genacross Family & Youth Services. He was in the temporary custody of the state, hoping to reunite with his biological grandmother, but life had other plans. His grandmother, who was struggling with her own battles against drugs and alcohol, could not overcome her demons. Joe’s case plan shifted, and it hit him hard because he had no other family. He was filled with anger and confusion. He channeled all his pain and anger into defiance, lashing out at the world. Smiles were rare, and manners even more rare. The words “please” and “thank you” were replaced with threats and profanity. Joe’s first few months were turbulent, but staff members were patient. They met his anger with understanding, his outbursts with consistency, and slowly the walls he had built began to crack.



Joe started to smile more and, one day to everyone’s surprise, he asked for a hug — a moment that marked the beginning of his transformation. School was another hurdle, but soon his performance there began to improve, too. Then, a single father entered Joe’s life, and he saw something that made him want to give Joe a chance. Six months have passed since Joe moved in with his new family, and the reports show he loves his new home and school. He enjoys spending his free time with his “brother,” and has developed a close bond with his “father.” Joe is working hard to keep this new life, family and happiness. Most importantly, he believes these are possible.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Prior to coming to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus, “Harper” had sold her home and lived for two years in a long-term care facility. Then she experienced a stroke. Harper spent time in the hospital, at an intensive rehabilitation facility, and then moved to the Wolf Creek Campus to continue her recovery. Harper was shocked by the difference between her previous facility and the Wolf Creek Campus. “It was night and day,” she said. “Everyone here is so nice.” Harper also commented on the extensive activities offered at the campus. She loves the outings, like the recent bus trip to get ice cream and visit Oak Openings Preserve Metropark. Harper also likes having her own space — sharing only a bathroom with another neighbor. Best of all, Harper continues to make progress in therapy. She has seen so much progress that next month she is expected to move into her own Wolf Creek assisted living apartment. “I’ll just feel more independent,” Harper commented. She is very grateful for the different levels of care that the campus has been able to provide, and she is excited for the future.

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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NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Stanley” had been a resident at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for many years. He had originally come to the campus for rehabilitation services, but eventually needed long-term care. The Napoleon Campus became his home. Stanley was well-known for his kindness and genuine interest in people. He loved animals and sports. He kept everyone current on what sports season was coming up and which teams were going to be contenders. Stanley was always ready for activities, and no matter what the activity, he made sure to try it at least once. Over the years, he fought through different health struggles where nursing and therapy staff helped him recover. Each time, he took his health challenges in stride. Stanley cared deeply for staff members and residents, always asking how they were and truly wanting to listen to the answer. He often prayed with and for everyone, and he always had a hug or smile to offer people. Stanley appreciated his home at the Napoleon Campus and made the most of his life every day. Even though Stanley has passed on, his gentle and loving spirit is fondly remembered.



HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Each fall, as the cold and flu season approaches, staff members at the Genacross affordable housing sites work with local pharmacies and health departments to provide vaccine clinics for the residents. Housing residents have the opportunity to get a variety of vaccines, including influenza, COVID-19, shingles, pneumonia, RSV and tetanus shots. These clinics protect the health of residents without them even having to leave the comfort of their homes. The vaccine clinics are just one example of the many ways Genacross strives to create wholeness of life for the older adults it serves. In September, clinics were held at Covenant Harbor in Oak Harbor, Luther Meadow in Gibsonburg, and Luther Pines in Lima. Throughout October, additional clinics are planned for the remaining affordable housing locations in Bucyrus, Norwalk, Oregon and Toledo, Ohio, as well as Temperance, Michigan.

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Charlotte” was discharged from a local hospital a few months ago and needed IV therapy treatments in her home. She requested that Genacross at Home provide the support she would need. On the day of her hospital discharge, a Genacross at Home nurse met Charlotte at her home, along with the infusion company, to begin her IV therapy treatments. Her treatments progressed well, and she was starting to get back to her normal activities of life when she left home care. Less than two months later, however, she had an episode late one night and ended up in the emergency room. Genacross at Home was immediately notified through a partnership that identifies when previous patients are admitted to this particular emergency room. Genacross at Home staff was able to meet with Charlotte the next day and start home health services to help her transition smoothly back to her home with the care she needed.

FOUNDATION

On September 18, the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation held its third Annual Day of Giving. Thanks to the incredible generosity of matching donors — Plante Moran, Terry L. Bossert and Stapleton Insurance Group — the first \$9,500 raised was matched dollar for dollar. With donor support, the Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal, raising over \$23,100. Donors' generous contributions enable the organization to fulfill its mission: “Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life’s journey.” The Foundation is deeply grateful to its donors for choosing to support the Genacross mission and become a vital part of its ministry.