



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



December 2024

## HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Rachel” is a widow and has limited family support, with only a niece and granddaughter involved in her life. She is 83 years old and has lived at Genacross’ Covenant Harbor senior community in Oak Harbor, Ohio, for about five months. The Genacross service coordinator at her housing site has been instrumental in helping Rachel get things accomplished. Recently, the service coordinator learned that Rachel did not have a phone number or working telephone. Rachel is hard of hearing, so she is unable to use a cell phone or regular phone. She did have a CapTel captioned telephone that was in storage at her niece’s house; unfortunately, some of the parts were missing. The coordinator helped Rachel order the parts, and, once they arrived, the phone was assembled. With so few family members to visit her, Rachel had felt very isolated. Now, with her phone set up and working, she is able to reach out to people whenever she wants, and her mood has improved greatly. Rachel also has regained some of her independence, because now she is able to call her physician and other service providers when necessary. The service coordinator’s help is a true representation of the Genacross Core Value of Wholeness of Life.



## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Being a caregiver at home for a loved one can be a rewarding and challenging responsibility. Many times, however, wonderful caregivers of others do not take the time to care for themselves. The Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus can help these individuals rest and recharge by watching over their loved ones for short respite stays. Recently, the Napoleon Campus provided respite services for a local couple. “Sam” was admitted to the campus and his wife “Dolores” visited daily, but spent her evenings at home. Sam was able to rest comfortably, enjoy worship services, and interact with fellow residents during meal times. Most importantly, he was able to give his beloved wife the time she needed and deserved for herself. Staff members were overjoyed to help this couple during Sam’s stay. On the day of his departure, the couple said that they will always pick the Napoleon Campus for future respite stays. Both had smiles on their faces as staff waved goodbye and wished them luck, and they pulled out of the parking lot to head 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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## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

The death of “Sally’s” father two years ago shattered her world, leaving her lost in a storm of sadness and confusion. The loss of her father, coupled with the history of substance abuse and domestic violence between Sally’s mother and her boyfriend, left Sally feeling alone, consumed by grief, and overwhelmed by thoughts of ending her own life. Upon arrival at Genacross Family & Youth Services, Sally displayed physical and verbal aggression, tantrums, emotional dysregulation, and self-injurious behaviors/suicidal gestures that created a need for continuous supervision. Over the time she spent at the Anthony Wayne Group Home, Sally began to change. Residential programming became her safe space – a place where she learned to express her true emotions and ask for help. She attended therapy, formed supportive relationships with peers, and found strength in the small victories. Slowly, the darkness began to lift, and she discovered a resilience she never knew she had. Now, Sally is a different person. She has learned to manage her emotions, and her once-debilitating depression is under control. Sally can now enjoy extended home visits with her family, something she is very excited about. Staff report that she is doing great and is respectful and helpful. In fact, Sally has become a source of support for others. When her peers struggle, she is there, offering a kind word or a listening ear. Sally’s journey has not been easy, but her transformation has been nothing short of remarkable.

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## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Jerry” was found unresponsive at home by his wife when she returned from an afternoon shopping trip. After entering the hospital that day, doctors informed his wife that Jerry had suffered a stroke. He spent three weeks in intensive care and a stroke unit. Near the end of his stay, a hospital discharge planner went over rehab facility options with the couple. Jerry could not speak, so his wife was his voice. She chose the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Upon admission, Wolf Creek staff assessed Jerry and knew they would need to be innovative in communication. In addition to having slurred speech, he was unable to use his left leg and arm. He was also unable to take any steps or transfer on his own. Leg and arm exercises started on day one, along with playing charades to enable staff to determine his needs. Jerry’s wife diligently visited every day, and the therapy staff taught her how to assist her husband with exercises. Jerry has progressed very well. He is currently receiving physical, occupational and speech therapy five times a week. He can now transfer on his own and walk up to 15 feet. Jerry states daily that his goal is to walk out of the rehabilitation center one day and return home!

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## GENACROSS AT HOME

“Molly” had a terrible fall at home, fractured her wrist, and needed to have surgery. When she was discharged from the hospital, she chose Genacross at Home to provide her with home health services. Genacross at Home provided Molly with nursing care for a short time, as well as ongoing physical and occupational therapy services. Molly was able to regain her strength, but continued to struggle with the fine motor skills in her hand. Genacross at Home’s occupational therapists worked consistently with Molly, and finally determined that the brace with which she had been fitted was not appropriate and was deterring her rehabilitation. The therapists worked with the surgeon’s office to get new measurements, and she was fitted for a new brace. Molly now has full range of motion in her wrist and will soon be discharged from Genacross at Home and able to continue an active life.

## FOUNDATION

For the past couple of years, on the day before Thanksgiving and Good Friday before Easter, youth in care at Genacross Family & Youth Services have been treated to fun-filled visits to the Urban Air Adventure Park in Toledo. A generous donor rents out the entire Urban Air facility as a private event for two hours of fun. The youth jump on the trampolines, complete the obstacle courses, ride the zip line, drive the go-karts, play on the equipment, climb the rock walls, and so much more. They also enjoy free pizza and drinks courtesy of the donors, and Genacross team members and youth experience some well-earned fun together. For many of the children, this is a first-time experience that reminds them what a more normal life can look like for them. Each time this event happens, everyone leaves exhausted, happy, and with big smiles on their faces. The Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation is pleased to play a role in facilitating the Urban Air events for our youth in care.