

AUGUST 2025

GOD AT WORK

IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of Genacross Lutheran Services



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Lily” first came to Genacross Family & Youth Services in June 2023. She was placed in the East Toledo Group Home, a small residential setting with a total of five youth. Lily had been adopted when she was 2 ½ years old along with her biological brother, but she was later removed from the home due to increasingly challenging behaviors. During her time at the East Toledo Group Home, Lily’s behaviors have significantly improved. Incidents of oppositional, attention-seeking, impulsive, manipulative and aggressive behaviors have decreased over time as she works on developing and implementing appropriate ways to express her emotions. Lily is currently practicing appropriate social skills to create positive peer relationships. She also has worked diligently with her therapist to process feelings and behaviors, and she is beginning to process past trauma (of which she was previously resistant). Lily has developed safe and trusting relationships with staff members that have allowed her to focus on making progress toward her treatment goals. While it was initially thought that Lily would be most successful in a small, therapeutic setting like the East Toledo Group Home, it became evident that she needed even more opportunities for growth. Genacross collaborated with children services to facilitate a transition to the Genacross Wynn Treatment Facility in hopes that this larger setting would be the best choice. While Lily remains in care with Genacross, staff members and the children services team are working persistently toward finding an adoptive home for Lily that will be appropriate based on her needs.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

The other morning, “Richard” was going out for an appointment. It had been awhile since he had left the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Facing serious illness, he had withdrawn from many things he used to do. This appointment was a big one. A test would reveal the progress of the illness. Richard was filled with nervous energy. Despite the planning of the nurses and social worker, he wanted everything re-confirmed. Staff members provided what information they could, but his nurse recognized the underlying anxiety. She spoke firmly and compassionately about what was being done to double-check the plans. The chaplain sat with Richard for a bit, waiting in the dayroom beside him. Another resident observed all this. Finding an opportunity, she approached Richard and introduced herself. She started asking questions – not about the appointment but about him. She was curious and the curiosity was genuine. Richard started talking about his life and experiences. Time began to pass a little more quickly and with much less intensity. The social worker and nurse manager arrived in time. Everything was, indeed, going as planned. Richard got to his appointment to find out his results. Whatever they are, this community will support him.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES



“Bob” is an elderly resident living at Genacross’ Luther Ridge senior community in Oregon, Ohio, whose health has been declining. One day, a staff member found water in the hallway, and the service coordinator knocked on Bob’s door to check on a possible problem. Bob answered the door and was very ill and confused. The service coordinator immediately called 911. Bob was hospitalized, but was able to return to his apartment a few days later with home health care services. After he settled in, the coordinator completed a PASSPORT Medicaid waiver application and accompanied him to the subsequent interview. He qualified for PASSPORT home care services, and the coordinator suggested an aide to assist Bob with some personal care and housekeeping tasks. Bob is a veteran, so he also receives services through Veterans Affairs (VA). The coordinator contacted the VA’s social worker and discussed Bob’s situation. The VA social worker is working on getting an order from the doctor and will coordinate aide services for Bob. The social worker will also notify the PASSPORT caseworker about the number of hours they can provide, and then PASSPORT will pick up the rest. With this coordination of services across different agencies, Bob will receive the care and assistance he needs to stay in his home.

FOUNDATION

At Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, the mission to support the care for at-risk youth took on a joyful twist this summer with a successful “Christmas in July” celebration. Genacross operates six community-based residential homes across northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan, providing a safe and loving environment for youth who have often cycled through multiple failed foster placements before finding stability here. Many of these children arrive as young as six and stay for years, building lasting bonds with the caring front line staff who become like family. A generous donor came up with the idea of Christmas in July. The campaign was a heartwarming success — thanks to community generosity, every child received all the gifts on their wish lists, a tangible reminder that they are not forgotten. From mental health support to specialized education, Genacross continues to offer a lifeline to these young lives — and this special celebration showed just how powerful compassion in action can be.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Andrew” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after surgery and a lengthy hospital stay. He needed therapy services to aid in his recovery. In the first few days on the Napoleon Campus, Andrew was discouraged and angry due to limitations from his surgery. He knew that recovery was not going to be easy, but he also had expected he would bounce back quickly. Staff worked with Andrew to encourage him. His path to recovery began with the therapy team working hard with him mornings and afternoons to reach his ultimate goal of returning home. As Andrew started seeing progress, his effort and enthusiasm in therapy increased. When the time came that he was strong enough to return home, the Napoleon Campus’ social worker met with him to receive feedback regarding his stay. Andrew reported that in the beginning he did not like anything about the campus. As time went on though, he realized he was just angry and frustrated with his situation. Andrew returned home and is very passionate about recommending the Napoleon Campus to others for short-term rehabilitation.

