The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CXI NO. 2 2025

GENACROSS GIVES UNUSED LAND FOR LOCAL ISAIAH 117 HOUSE





The new Isaiah 117 House in Lucas County is being built on land donated by Genacross Lutheran Services. The home will welcome children entering foster care with love and kindness. (Bottom, left to right) Rick Marshall, Genacross President/CEO, Jennifer Bohnsack, Isaiah 117 House Location Leader, and Mike George, Genacross Foundation Executive Director, share a common mission to help children in need at the "Framing the Future" celebration.

When the missions of two organizations intersect in a meaningful way like those of Genacross Lutheran Services and Isaiah 117 House, the results are positive for the local community. Both organizations focus on serving children in their times of need, and they have worked together to bring an Isaiah 117 House to Lucas County, Ohio.

Genacross donated two adjacent residential lots on Crestway Drive in Oregon, Ohio, for the construction of a local Isaiah 117 House. The new house will be located across the street from one of the Genacross youth group homes.

Isaiah 117 House held a "Framing the Future" celebration for the groundbreaking of the new home on July 16, 2025. Genacross President/CEO Rick Marshall and Genacross Foundation Executive Director Mike George attended the event that framed the future "with love, encouragement, scripture and prayer — laying a foundation not just of wood and nails, but of hope and healing for children entering foster care." The project has been a labor of love for many individuals, companies and organizations, all coming together to make it happen.

"We embrace Isaiah 117 House's mission to ensure every child entering the foster care system has a safe and loving place to stay while awaiting placement," Mr. Marshall stated. "As an organization that works closely with the foster care system, we understand the need to reduce the trauma children experience when their lives are uprooted."

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

- CEO Column, page 2
- Youth Services, page 3
- LeadingAge STARS, page 4
- Genacross at Home, page 5
- Wolf Creek Campus, page 5
- Foundation, page 6
- Donations, pages 6-7

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey.

OUR VISION

Through our faith and work, we strive to be a forward-thinking, compassionate organization that improves the lives of current and future generations.

OUR VALUES

Faithfulness to Christ
Equality and Justice
Wholeness of Life
Integrity
Quality of Service
Stewardship of Resources

OUR MINISTRIES

Genacross Lutheran ServicesNapoleon Campus

Genacross Lutheran Services
Wolf Creek Campus

Genacross Home &

Community Based Services

Genacross Family &

Youth Services

Genacross Lutheran Services
Foundation

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A note from **Rick Marshall**

President and CEO



Medicaid Matters

Throughout our history, Genacross has compassionately cared for individuals with limited means. For both older adults and youth, Genacross relies heavily on Medicaid funding to allow us to meet the needs of many of those we serve. Recently, the Federal Government passed the "One Big Beautiful Bill," which reduces Medicaid funding by over \$1 trillion. The reductions at the federal level will cause states like Ohio and Michigan to receive less money to serve its most vulnerable populations.

As Genacross President/CEO, I see first-hand what is possible when people have access to consistent, quality care, and I know what happens when they do not. Without appropriate Medicaid funding, tens of thousands of children, families, older adults and individuals in Toledo and surrounding communities are at risk of having vital services reduced or eliminated.

Consider Lilly, a 16-year-old in our Genacross Family & Youth Services program who suffers from major depressive and disruptive mood dysregulation disorders and often has suicidal ideations. With the support of Medicaid, she is able to receive behavioral health treatment and learn the skills she needs to manage her emotions and function in a healthier manner each day.

We also serve Terry, a 72-year-old man living in one of our subsidized senior housing communities who receives Medicaid waiver services. Thanks to Medicaid, Terry receives transportation services, home-delivered meals, light housekeeping and cleaning services, and a nurse to help him with weekly medication management.

Cutting Medicaid does not save money in the long run. It merely shifts the burden to overcrowded emergency rooms, unpaid family caregivers, and local governments already operating on tight margins. This destabilizes our care systems, worsens health outcomes, and exacerbates the challenges faced by families in need. Medicaid is one of the most cost-effective public investments we can make. It's more than a line item in the federal budget. It's the reason a child can grow up with consistent care and an older adult can stay at home.

Genacross and other members of our Lutheran Services in America network will continue to advocate on behalf of those we serve. We work constantly to develop new and innovative ways to deliver better care. We reinvest our funds in care, not profit, to create sustainable community-based solutions. Please join us in advocating for restoration of Medicaid funding to best meet the needs of our vulnerable citizens.

Blessings,



Men's Group Volunteers Time and Talent

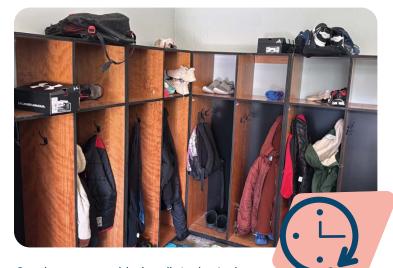
Thanks to a men's group from Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse, Ohio, several light construction and maintenance projects have recently been completed at the Anthony Wayne Group Home. The group home operated by Genacross Family & Youth Services provides care and treatment for up to 10 at-risk youth.

The men's church group, known as "The Toolbox," built and installed 10 cubbies in the garage for the children's shoes and coats; removed old, broken furniture and carpeting from the basement; and built and installed cubbies in an upstairs closet.

"This has been a massive benefit for the structure of the house, as something as simple as putting your shoes and coats up every day and general organization can build routine," said Daniel Daugherty, Director of Residential Services for Family & Youth Services.

While the youth seem to really appreciate the cubbies in the garage, according to Mr. Daugherty, the bigger positive is "members of the community taking their time to help us with simple yet important tasks goes a long way in helping the youth feel cared for."

"When we see a need in the community, we try to help with maintenance and light construction projects," said Dean



On what was once blank walls in the Anthony
Wayne Group Home's garage, now stand sturdy
cubbies for coats and shoes built and installed by a
men's group from Community of Christ Lutheran Church in
Whitehouse, Ohio.

Nofzinger, a member of The Toolbox ministry. The group has completed such tasks as hanging drywall, fixing water leaks, building steps off a deck, and building a wheel chair ramp. "Simple stuff that can make a real difference."

Isaiah 117 House - continued from front page

Jennifer Bohnsack, Isaiah 117 House Location Leader, has been the driving force behind the project, pouring her heart into changing the way foster care begins in Lucas County. At the celebration, she shared her "why?" It involved a small boy sitting in plastic chair in a sterile office environment with a garbage bag of belongings at his feet. He had been removed from his home that day in September 2022, and he had no comfort, peace or place to play.

Isaiah 1:17 says, "Defend the cause of the fatherless," and that is what Isaiah 117 House does by providing homes for children to go to on their removal day, one of the worst days of their lives. Each home provides a fully stocked kitchen, inviting bedrooms for girls and boys, places to play, and smiling faces waiting to show kindness. The homes have the potential to positively affect the children

who are coming into custody in ways far beyond what can be imagined.

"We know what a comfortable bed, clean clothes, healthy food, toys and a friendly face can mean to a child," said Mr. George. "We see the positive effects each day in our youth group homes, and we are honored to play a role in making an Isaiah 117 House in Lucas County a reality."

"At Genacross, we are called daily to help those in need, and we support the work of Isaiah 117 House to ease the journey of children being removed from their homes," Mr. Marshall said. "This new house will help children immensely, as well as lighten the load of child welfare caseworkers and support the transition for foster families. I believe this home will fundamentally change the beginning of foster care in our area."



Numerous Genacross STARS award winners attended the LeadingAge Ohio Northwest Region luncheon with other Genacross leadership and team members.

LeadingAge Ohio recognizes Genacross Stars

LeadingAge Ohio sponsors the STARS Awards annually to recognize deserving employees whose positive actions and attitudes shine brightly in their daily interactions with residents, patients and clients. In 2025, 11 Genacross employees were recognized by LeadingAge Ohio.

The employees honored were: Danielle Ducat, Certified Nursing Assistant at the Napoleon Campus; Nicole Dunning, Licensed Practical Nurse at the Napoleon Campus; KaRe Glenn, Team Leader with Family & Youth Services; Lindsay Lotz, Dietary Cook at the Napoleon Campus; Tim Lyons, Maintenance at the Napoleon Campus; Tim Morehart, Therapist with Family & Youth Services; Sue Perrin, Senior Level Manager with Home & Community Based Services; Natasha Ruth, Licensed Practical Nurse at the Wolf Creek Campus; Alisha Sliders, Housekeeper at the Wolf Creek Campus; Craig Thames, Team Leader with Family & Youth Services, and Nicole Wortham, Dietary Cook at the Wolf Creek Campus.

This year, the LeadingAge Ohio Northwest Region Stars Awards Luncheon was held on May 14 at Good Shepherd Home in Fostoria, Ohio. Numerous Genacross award winners were able to attend the recognition event, joining winners from other nonprofit organizations across northwest Ohio.

"Our STARS winners are shining examples of employees who are dedicated to doing their jobs well and serving others. We appreciate their work, which makes the lives of our residents and patients better each and every day," said Amanda Schroeder, Vice President of Home & Community Based Services.

STARS Award winners are required to be non-management staff members and are nominated by co-workers, residents or their supervisors. Each winner received an award certificate from LeadingAge Ohio at the luncheon and were paid for their time to attend the luncheon.



Genacross at Home Ministry Ceases Operations

In early June, Genacross Lutheran Services announced the difficult decision to close its home health agency, Genacross at Home. The agency has been providing quality nursing care and therapy services to thousands of patients since March 2014.

"However, due to declining insurance payment rates and numerous competitors, Genacross at Home is no longer financially viable," said Rick Marshall, President/ CEO. "At this point in time, we can serve more individuals by investing our dollars and human resources in other ministry areas."

Genacross at Home patients continued to be served until the end of their approved episode of care. If continued care was needed, Genacross at Home provided a smooth transition to another home health provider. All Genacross home health services were completed by the end of July.

"We love the team who worked at Genacross at Home," stated Amanda Schroeder, Vice President of Home & Community



Based Services. "They are dedicated and caring individuals who were offered positions at other Genacross ministries."

"Genacross has evolved and changed many times in our 165-year history," Mr. Marshall said. "We will continue to focus our efforts in our other ministry areas to meet the needs of those we are called to serve."

Wolf Creek Campus to Host Car Show



Tuesday, September 9, 2025 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Who doesn't love looking at classic cars, muscle cars and sports cars? Maybe view some shiny trucks and motorcycles thrown in for variety. If so, then stop by the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus from **5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, September 9, 2025**, for the Cruisin' Zeake's Car Show.

The family-friendly car show features free spectator admission, food trucks, a bounce house, games and great oldies classics being spun by Cruisin' Zeake. A 50/50 raffle will be held to benefit the Activity Department on campus so it can continue to offer a wide variety of creative activities for residents.

"We are very excited to bring a car show to our beautiful campus," said Katie Miller, Executive Director of the Wolf Creek Campus. "Our

hope is to engage and connect the community and our residents to some of the things we all love and enjoy."

Parking for the event is free and will be located on the campus. If it rains on Tuesday, the car show will be held the following day on Wednesday, September 10, 2025.



Fourth Annual Genacross Day of Giving Coming Soon

The Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation is pleased to announce that the fourth annual Genacross Day of Giving will be held on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025**. For this year's Day of Giving, the fundraising goal is \$25,000 to support the various Genacross ministries.

Thanks to three generous donors, Plante Moran, Terry L. Bossert, and Stapleton Insurance Group, the first \$11,500 dollars raised for Day of Giving will be matched dollar for dollar.

A gift ensures:

- Residents and patients will continue to stay with Genacross and receive care regardless of their ability to pay.
- Residents at Genacross low-income senior housing communities have access to the services they need to remain living independently as long as possible.
- Youth in Genacross group homes are provided a safe space and care to overcome past physical and emotional traumas.

"These are a just a few examples of the tangible fruits of giving, but we support our ministries in a multitude of ways that have a positive impact on those we serve," said Mike George, Foundation Executive Director. "We are very grateful for our matching dollar sponsors who are doubling the impact on our Day of Giving."

For 165 years, Genacross has been able to achieve its mission "to embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey" because of the generosity of donors.



To support the Genacross Day of Giving, scan the QR code to the left or go to genacrossdayofgiving.org on or before September 10. Every gift counts toward helping those served by Genacross.

IN MEMORY OF March 1 - July 31, 2025

David Balint by Ruth Arleen Amstutz

Fred G. & Mary M. Dais - Mom & Dad by Fred & Lynda Dais

Husband, Walden "Bud" Damschroder by Mary Damschroder

Kurt Ehrhardt by Nancy Ehrhardt

Jan Nissen Hawkins by James M. Nissen

Sue Hurst by Phyllis Hesterman

David Joehlin by Mary Jane Joehlin

Jim Keeler by Julie Paulsen

Ruth Krumm by Shelby Raines

June Miller by St. Paul WELCA, Clyde

Parent, Husband & Son by Elaine Gladieux

Gary Paulsen by Julie Paulsen

Dorothy Riehl by the Edward Birner Family, Janet Drake, Karen Schlatter

Dorothy & Roger Riehl by Carolyn Riehl, Diane Thiessen

John & Brodie Schmich by Debbie, Brandon & Brenton Schmich

Ruth Sprunk by David Goll

Donald Tornow by St. Paul WELCA, Clyde

NON-CASH March 1 - July 31, 2025

Anderson/Miller Insurance Agency, Inc Marilyn Kayne Melanie Moore Michele Ross Mary Widmer

IN HONOR OF March 1 - July 31, 2025

Pope Leo XIV by James M. Nissen

Rebecca Jaessing's Birthday by William Coder

If we have failed to list your name or have listed it incorrectly, please accept our apologies and contact Mickey at 419.861.4965 to correct our records.

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Spanish: ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-888-546-7745 (TTY: 1-888-546-7745).

Chinese: 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電1-888-546-7745 (TTY:1-888-546-7745)

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS March 1 - July 31, 2025

Anonymous
Anonymous - Thrivent
Charitable Impact
& Investing
Rev. Dr. Jerry Bauer
Rev. Steve & Amy
Bauerle

Jason Beyer Mary Billow Neil Bishoff

Kathleen Bisset

Hilde Boes Eli Boldt

Lawrence Boldt Timothy Borkowski Terry L. Bossert

Steve & Deb Bowsher

Kari Bucher Ruby Burkey

Christy Burnette

John & Alice Calderonello

Beth Cannon

Frank Chapman*
Beth Charvat

Estate of Walter Christen

Edward Clinker

Melissa Colburn Joe & Judith Conda

James Cordy

Jami Curley Tamara Dawson-Kynard

Susan & Gregory Denny

Rev. Ron & Judy Diener

Carl & Barbara Dierksheide

Alan & Mary Ann Draves

Jason Fisher

Crissy George Arlene Gerig

Dennis Gerken -Thrivent Choice Dollars

David Gerwin Elaine Gladieux

Rev. Richard & Christine Habrecht

Mary Jo & Dennis Hagey

Vicky & Demetrius Harris Estate of Arthur Hickok Paula Hicks-Hudson

Ellen Hubbard

Estate of J. Henry Huseman

Eric & Cynthia Johnson

Estate of Clayman Kabat

Marilyn Kayne

Estate of LaLa Keiser

Rebecca & Wayne King K. Linden Kuhn

Dan & Julie Kunos

Vivian Lanzer

Teresa Loga

Dewayne & Bernice Lohmann

Estate of Lolantha Lohmann

Rev. Steve & Heidi Lutz Ian Malhoit

Linda Marchica

Rick & Janet Marshall via the Marshall Family Charitable Fund

Gaye Martin

Mary Martin

Evelyn McMurtrie -Thrivent Choice

Dollars

Carol Meuser

Patty & Arthur Michaelis

Melanie Moore

Ken & Margie Nungester

Kimberly & Matthew Osburn

Debby Peters

Diane Pojedynski

David & Linda Polzin

Sarah Pope

Jeff & Sharon Pryzsiecki

Ann Ray

Patricia Robb

Pamela Roberts

Michael & Carolyn Roetter

Michele Ross

Jon Russell Ann Sanford

Lorinda & Jeff Schalk

Jamie & Randall Schimmoeller

Amanda Schroeder

Joan Schwartz Jane Sharp

Duane Shively

Estate of Christine Siefert

Elizabeth Simonds

Scott Slee

Kimberly Snyder -Thrivent Choice

Dollars Ed & Sue Stehulak

Martha & Hans Vetter

Melissa & Ryan Warner

Linda Weaver Timothy Weirich

Mary Widmer

Michele & John Wright Katie & Jay Zawisza

Katie & Jay Zawisza

*deceased



CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS

March 1 - July 31, 2025

Bethlehem (Okolona), Defiance

Bethlehem, Pemberville

Church of the Master, Perrysburg

Community of Christ, Whitehouse

Concordia, Toledo

First St. John, Toledo

Grace, Elmore Grace, Fremont

Holy Trinity, Toledo

Messiah. Toledo

Olivet, Sylvania

Providence, Holland Resurrection.

Port Clinton

Shepherd of the Valley, Perrysburg

Solomon, Woodville

St. John's Ev., Oak Harbor

St. Luke's, Curtice

St. Luke's, Temperance

St. Mark, Fremont

St. Mark's, Wapakoneta

St. Martin's, Archbold

St. Matthew, Lima

St. Michael, Ottawa Lake, MI

St. Paul, Bowling Green

St. Paul, Clyde

St. Paul, Defiance

St. Paul,

Sulphur Springs

St. Paul's, Blissfield

St. Paul's, Maybee, MI St. Paul's, Toledo

St. Peter Ev., Norwalk

St. Peter, Martin

St. Peter's, Edon

Trilby United Methodist, Toledo

Zion, Gibsonburg

Zion, Huron Zion, Perrysburg

Zion, Petersburg, MI

ORGANIZATIONAL DONATIONS

March 1 - July 31, 2025

Brodava Salon, Bowling Green

Hartmann-Bogan Financial Planning, Toledo Helping Hens Fund housed at the Greater

Toledo Community Foundation. Inc. KeyBank, Toledo

Katherine R. Smith Fund housed at the Greater Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.

Kroger Community Rewards, Columbus

P.E.O. Sisterhood Int. Ay-OH, Monclova

Plante Moran, PLLC, Toledo

Seeds of Hope Inc., Lebanon, TN Thrivent - YourCause, Plano, TX

TOPS #1648, Toledo

Trust Company Family Offices, Toledo
United HealthCare Svs Inc., Englewood, CO

United Medical Supply Company, Brunswick

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Kari Bucher, Editor

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NAPOLEON CAMPUS RESIDENT TO SHARE TALENT AT ART ON THE STREET

The Activity Department at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus works hard to engage residents. For assisted living resident Joanne Bechstein, what really sparked her interest was an activity that involved handsewing phone bags. From there, her creativity has expanded into painting.

Joanne began sewing more phone bags that she gave to the Activity Department for bingo prizes. Then, Activity Director Michelle May and her team started a sewing group that Joanne participated in each week, where residents made various projects. Meanwhile, Joanne was also discovering a love for painting. Ms. May had found an easel that could be placed in Joanne's room, and Joanne began painting and sewing and hasn't stopped.

Last year, Joanne asked if she could sell some of the items she had created at the Art on the Street event held in July at the Napoleon Campus. Craft vendors are part of the annual event and Joanne had a table.

Joanne plans to be a vendor at this year's Art on the Street coming up on **Friday**, September 19, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday, September 20, from 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The two-day event includes chalk art in the parking lot, craft and art vendors, music, and food. Plan to stop by for a fun-filled time full of creativity.



Resident Joanne Bechstein is excited to share her art at this year's Art on the Street event September 19-20 at the Napoleon Campus.

