

NOVEMBER 2025

GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of Genacross Lutheran Services



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

The bus driver for the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus is a humble guy. He is on campus before dawn many days and always makes transport smooth and easy for even the most anxious residents. His humility has one significant chink, however, when it comes to chili. He has won the Wolf Creek Campus' chili cook-off for the last three years, and he is not quiet about it. That is how "Angela," who was riding to a medical appointment, came to hear about his chili and the campus' chili cook-off.

The event is usually the domain of Wolf Creek employees, but there is no rule that a resident cannot enter. So Angela conspired with her son, "Tom," to enter the cook-off. "I didn't figure we'd win," she said, "but I thought it would be fun to try." Tom had a pretty good chili recipe at the ready – a staple of duck hunting excursions with friends – but he polished it up. He took advice from Angela to use fresh ingredients and even took a test batch to work for his colleagues to try. On the big day, eleven chili pots were lined up. When the votes were counted, chili number six – that of Angela and Tom – reigned supreme. "I've never won a cooking competition before," Tom said. Meanwhile, the Wolf Creek bus driver is generally good-spirited about it all, but he is looking forward to next year's competition.



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 residents. Housing residents had the opportunity to get a variety of vaccines, including influenza, COVID-19, shingles, pneumonia and RSV, and tetanus shots.

These clinics protect the health of residents without them even having to leave the comfort of their homes. In September and October, clinics were held at most of the Genacross communities located in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. "The residents really seem to like the convenience of the pharmacist coming to their building and appreciate that we are looking out for their well-being," said a Genacross service coordinator. The vaccine clinics are just one example of the many ways Genacross strives to create wholeness of life for the older adults it serves.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS



“Hannah” has lived in a Bavarian Village condominium on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years and has been an active member of the community. As her health began to decline, Hannah knew her next step in the campus’ continuum of care was moving to an assisted living apartment at Alpine Village. The move would give her the extra care she needed to manage her health issues. When she expressed to her family that it was time for the next level of care, they were relieved. Hannah was empowered to take control of decisions as her needs changed, and her family has always respected her independent thinking. She now resides in her own apartment, but with the extra nursing care she needs, and meals, housekeeping and laundry are provided for her. To stay strong, Hannah can walk down to the therapy gym or even get therapy services in her apartment. She also enjoys the convenient church services in the chapel and the wide range of activities. Today, Hannah is thriving and thankful for all the options on the Napoleon Campus.

FAMILY&YOUTH SERVICES

“Henry” is a 13-year-old boy in the custody of his grandmother. He was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services for residential treatment in 2024 due to repeated incidents of domestic violence against his grandmother and siblings. When he arrived, Henry exhibited other negative behaviors as well, including impulsivity, angry outbursts, oppositional behavior and property destruction. During his time with Genacross, residential and clinical staff members worked diligently with Henry to implement and develop coping skills for emotional regulation, despite ongoing trauma and continued anger complicating the progress. However, in the weeks preceding his discharge, Henry demonstrated an increased willingness to engage in therapeutic services as well as more awareness and self-control of his behavior. Henry’s therapist worked closely with treatment team members to establish support and coping strategies to help him be successful in managing his emotions when he returned home. Upon discharge, Genacross initiated aftercare services, and Henry and his grandmother are active participants. Genacross engages in monthly meetings with Henry’s team to provide continued support. He continues to address anger management during in-home based therapy services and is implementing coping skills to effectively regulate behavior and emotions. In addition to this, Henry’s progress is evident through success in the educational setting, including an invitation to attend the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. Genacross appreciates the ability to be a part of this youth’s progress, both during and after residential treatment.

FOUNDATION

For the past several years, the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation has been honored to support the annual memorial service at the Wolf Creek Campus. This meaningful event featured beautiful music from vocalist Jessye Wright, pianist Eric Dickey, and violinist Sarah Magoun. Before the service began, guests were invited to write the names of their loved ones on paper doves. During the ceremony, Chaplain Greg Olsen hung the doves by the altar and offered a heartfelt blessing of the flock. It was a moving way to honor and remember those who have passed, culminating with everyone joining together in singing “Amazing Grace.” Following the service, the Foundation provided refreshments for the residents and families who took time to celebrate the lives of their loved ones.