

GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of Genacross Lutheran Services

DECEMBER 2025

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Pam” and her husband “Tom” have resided in the Napoleon community their entire lives. They have raised 10 children and remain heavily active in a local church. Pam’s oldest daughter reached out to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus after lengthy discussion with her other siblings about possible placement of their parents in Alpine Village assisted living. With housekeeping services, three meals a day, Bible studies, and other activities and services available, the family agreed that an assisted living environment would be a perfect next step for their parents. Prior to moving into assisted living, however, Pam needed to strengthen her body as she continued recovering from an illness. The Napoleon Campus team was able to work out moving Pam to the Health Center for rehabilitation, while simultaneously moving her husband to Alpine Village to await her arrival in their new apartment. After 10 days of physical therapy and nursing care during her rehab stay, Pam and Tom were reunited in their assisted living apartment. The occasion was a joyous one, and several family members came to witness their parents’ reunion in their new home.

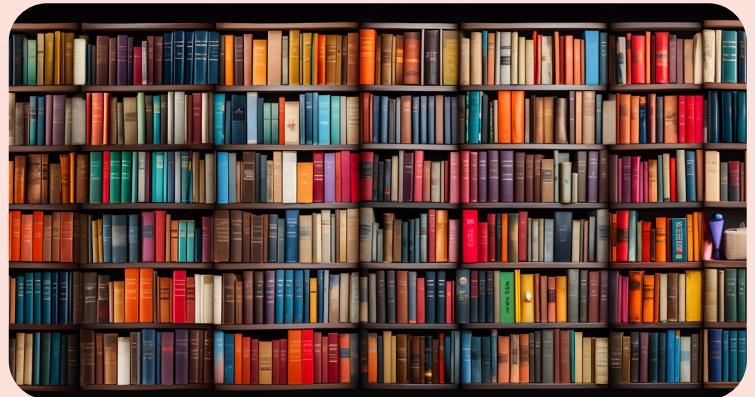


FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Ashlyn” first came to Genacross Family & Youth Services in November 2024 when she was placed in the Oregon Group Home. She was removed from her family home due to increasingly challenging behaviors, including defiance, attention-seeking behaviors, impulsiveness, manipulation, and aggression. During her time at the Oregon Group Home, Ashlyn’s behavior has improved exponentially. Staff members have worked closely with Ashlyn on her daily functioning, and, through persistence and healthy supports, her incidents of negative behaviors have decreased over time. She is working hard on developing and implementing appropriate ways to express her emotions and make better decisions. Ashlyn is also practicing appropriate social skills to create positive peer relationships, and she has come to be described as a positive role model. She has worked diligently with her therapist to process her trauma and has made significant progress in this area. She has developed safe and trusting relationships with staff members that have allowed her to focus on making progress toward her treatment goals. Throughout her time with Genacross, Ashlyn’s county placement team has been working persistently toward reuniting her with her family. The residential treatment team is hopeful that reunification will be successful based on the progress Ashlyn has made and the skills she has gained during her time with Genacross.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Reading has a significant place in the lives of residents on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Many are avid readers. Some just like the feel of a book in their lap or find comfort in having one by their bedside. Often, though, the book collections residents bring to their apartments are their most cherished and familiar. Eventually, they will go looking for something fresh and new to read. While the public library visits once a month, and family members often bring requests, nothing beats having books on hand to enjoy. That is where four cherry bookshelves on the third floor of assisted living become important. Recently, a couple of residents took to reorganizing — and doing some much-needed weeding of — these overloaded bookshelves. Of course, the situation got worse before it got better. For a few days, the nearby tables were covered with books in big stacks. A temporary, six-foot table was set up to help with sorting. Seeing the project under way, passing residents pitched in. What had fallen into a hodgepodge is now orderly — sorted by topic. Novels, biographies, religious books, and even coffee-table picture books all have a place. The temporary table is now covered with extra books for any resident or family member to take home. The neatly arranged bookshelves stand refreshed and ready to serve.



HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

For several months, “Dan,” a long-time resident of Genacross’ Covenant Harbor senior community in Oak Harbor, had been working with the housing site’s service coordinator to meet his increasing needs. He has a history of falling at least three times a week and usually called EMS for help. Recently, Dan fell and broke his shoulder, and doctors did not cast it or do surgery, deciding to have it heal on its own. After breaking his shoulder, he needed rehabilitation at a local skilled nursing facility. Every other day, Dan’s daughter and the Genacross service coordinator discussed Dan’s progress and their concerns and strategized how best to help him. They determined that looking into an assisted living setting was the best option for Dan moving forward, and he agreed to the plan. The goal was to have Dan discharge from the rehab center and move directly into a nearby assisted living facility. After much coordination by all parties involved, Dan experienced a successful transition to his new home where he can get the daily help he needs.

FOUNDATION

The children in care with Genacross Family & Youth Services recently experienced a day they will not soon forget. A generous donor gifted the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation with an adventure-filled visit for the youth to Urban Air in Toledo. For many of these kids, whose daily lives can be marked by uncertainty and challenges, stepping into a place built for joy, laughter, and boundless energy was a powerful reminder that they are valued and deserving of good memories. With each jump, climb, and burst of excitement, they experienced not only pure fun but also a sense of belonging and hope. This act of kindness did more than provide entertainment for a few hours, it created moments of connection and healing that will stay with the youth long after the day ended.