

GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of Genacross Lutheran Services

FEBRUARY 2026

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Due to health issues, “Julie” was not able to go anywhere or do anything the last year she lived in her home. Concerned family and friends urged her to consider a new living situation with more support. Julie finally decided to try an assisted living community and joined the Alpine Village family on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus. She loves living at Alpine Village and wishes she had moved in sooner.

Staff members are wonderful, and she has made many new friends. She appreciates the meals served in the dining room, the laundry services, and her medication reminders. Julie needed therapy services to improve her strength and mobility when she arrived on campus. Even though her insurance was out-of-network to receive Genacross therapy services, the therapy director connected her with a home health company to provide services. Julie has progressed in therapy and now has a power wheelchair that helps give her more independence. Julie actively participates in many of the activities offered on campus, especially enjoying the Sunday church service, Bible study, hymn sings, and the musicians who come in to entertain residents. Her quality of life has improved immensely since moving to Alpine Village.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Bobby” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus like many residents who need rehabilitation services. He had experienced a fall outside his home and needed to restore strength and functional skills after his hospitalization. There were hints, though, that something was not quite right at the home where Bobby lived with a sibling. A family member followed up and discovered that caring for the house and themselves had become too much for the siblings. It would not be safe to discharge Bobby back home, so he entered long-term care at the Wolf Creek Campus and was soon joined by his sibling. While Bobby was saddened to not be returning home, he entered this new phase of life with gusto and is thriving. He spends time coloring and drawing in the activities room, joining social groups, and attending music programs. A person of faith, he frequently contributes at Bible study and participates in weekly chapel services. Solid nutrition has also improved Bobby’s overall health and resiliency. Best of all, he and his sibling still get to spend time together. Recently, a few medical challenges have complicated Bobby’s continued recovery. Wolf Creek’s clinical team has worked with his extended family to coordinate his care and see him through the setbacks. Bobby has come a long way, and he has made friends, reconnected with loved ones, and found a caring and vibrant place to live.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES



After receiving inquiries from other concerned residents, the service coordinator at Luther Pines senior community in Lima, Ohio, decided to check on "Dolores." The service coordinator was very surprised to find Dolores sitting in her living room recliner surrounded by numerous items someone might need or use throughout the day. After speaking with her, the coordinator realized she was seriously struggling with her mobility and was practically living in the chair. The coordinator suggested a phone call to Dolores' primary care physician, although Dolores was curiously reluctant to make the call. This perplexed the coordinator, so she dug a little deeper to discover the real reason for Dolores' apathy. A few months back, she had lost her youngest son in a motorcycle accident, and afterward she just gave up. Depression was the underlying reason this woman was living life in her chair. The service coordinator spoke to Dolores, and they decided that together they would work to get her life back. They called her doctor and set up a virtual visit. The doctor referred her to a psychologist and adjusted her antidepressant medication. The doctor also made referrals for therapy services to improve her strength and a home health aide to help with her personal care and housekeeping needs. The service coordinator has been supporting Dolores every step of the way. The goal, over time, is for Dolores to be able to move around freely in her clean and safe home.

FOUNDATION

Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation recently was blessed to receive a legacy gift that is already touching and transforming lives across Genacross ministries. This generous act of stewardship demonstrates how one thoughtful decision can create lasting impact, ensuring that compassionate care, Christ-centered service, and hope continue to reach residents in need for years to come. Through this unrestricted legacy commitment, residents of all ages can receive enhanced care, families can find renewed support, and programs that nurture dignity and purpose can grow stronger. Such gifts remind us that our calling is not only to serve in the present, but also to faithfully prepare blessings for future generations. The Doerfler Legacy Society was created to honor individuals whose forward-thinking generosity reflects a deep commitment to faith, service, and the enduring love of God in action.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

When "Jack" was referred to Genacross Family & Youth Services for residential treatment, his life was marked by significant behavioral challenges, including defiance, oppositional behaviors, self-harm, and physical and verbal aggression toward peers and adults. He had been living with numerous siblings and his single mother, who struggled to maintain stability. Unsanitary living conditions occurred at times, and as the oldest child at only 9 years old, Jack was often required to help care for his siblings. Additionally, his father had passed away not long before, and Jack had experienced multiple school suspensions for serious incidents. When he came to live at Genacross, Jack had difficulty adjusting and missed his family. However, with time, structure, and consistent support, he began to understand how changing his behaviors could help him return home. Staff recognized that many of his behaviors were driven by unmet emotional needs. While in care with Genacross, the staff and his therapist helped Jack develop his independent living skills, create healthy coping mechanisms, and strengthen his social skills. While he focused on treatment, his mother worked toward recovery, returned to employment, and sought to get her son back and reunite the family. Eventually, Jack was able to return home, and his mother reports that Jack is doing well, meeting expectations at home and school. He continues to use the valuable skills he learned at Genacross as he embraces life with his family.