

GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of Genacross Lutheran Services

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

The service coordinator at Luther Meadow senior community in Gibsonburg, Ohio, was notified by another resident that “George” had been taken to the hospital for an emergency. The coordinator was worried about his well-being, so she reached out and learned that George was home but struggling. The coordinator drove an hour from her other Genacross housing site to meet with George, as he was extremely nervous and frightened in that moment. He had undergone an emergency surgery that temporarily left him unable to drive or manage daily tasks independently. During this time, the service coordinator assisted George with coordinating access to his prescribed medications and helped him navigate grocery delivery services to ensure he had the food and other necessities he needed. She also worked with the Luther Meadow housing manager to coordinate his annual recertification process because of his inability to move about freely. In addition, she is continuing to work with George to explore financial assistance resources to help reduce the burden of upcoming medical bills related to his unexpected surgery. The service coordinator’s efforts have eased George’s anxiety, so he can focus more on his recovery.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Sandra” is a private person who likes to have social time, but she also likes her space. After she experienced a fall in her home, she went to a local nursing care facility for rehabilitation following a hospital stay. That facility required Sandra to share her room with another resident, which left an impression on her when that roommate passed away. While she became good friends with her second roommate, Sandra was looking for a different living situation when she finished her rehabilitation. Sandra checked out the assisted living on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus and decided to move into an apartment. She has her own space and the right amount of support for her present needs. Staff members provide all her meals, do her laundry, and manage her medications. Sandra is also continuing therapy. She is now walking the equivalent of a football field, a marked improvement from when she arrived and could only cover half that distance. Sandra needs less support and is in less pain now. After she is done with therapy and sharing meals with new friends in the dining room, Sandra is ready to enjoy the quiet space of her apartment. She is looking forward to participating in more activities as her body continues to recover, and Sandra appreciates that her family knows she is in a supportive environment appropriate to her needs.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES



“Emma” first came to Genacross Family & Youth Services in April 2025 and was placed in the Wynn Group Home. She entered care with a significant history of instability and loss, which has contributed to many challenges. At the time of intake, Emma exhibited oppositional behavior, angry outbursts, manipulative behaviors, and difficulty interacting appropriately with peers and adults. Through the support of staff, Emma’s behaviors have gradually improved. Incidents of oppositional and verbally aggressive behaviors have decreased over time as Emma has worked on developing appropriate coping strategies and improving emotional regulation. She has shown increased consistency with daily expectations and routines and has demonstrated the ability to participate appropriately within the structured residential setting. Emma attends school regularly, completes academic assignments, and maintains good grades. She is beginning to practice appropriate social skills and has shown increased willingness to seek staff support when frustrated. Emma has been actively engaged in individual therapy, including sessions focused on emotional regulation, accountability, communication, and socially appropriate behavior. She has begun acknowledging the need to improve peer interactions.

Due to Emma’s progress toward her goals and her need for increased opportunities to develop social skills with peers her own age, the treatment team recently determined that a transition to the larger Maumee Youth Center was clinically appropriate, while still providing the structure and support she needs to thrive. Adoption is the long-term goal for Emma, with Genacross and her guardian continuing to collaborate toward identifying a permanent family for Emma.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Mary” has been living in a Bavarian Village independent living condominium on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years. Recently, the 87-year-old resident came to the Napoleon Campus’ Health Center in poor health. She was weak, withdrawn and struggling with day-to-day activities. There were concerns about her overall decline, appetite, energy, and quality of life. Through consistent nursing care, therapy services, encouragement from staff members, family support, and her own determination, Mary has slowly started to improve. Small victories have turned into major milestones. She has regained strength, became more engaged socially, improved her nutritional intake, and began participating in activities again. Today, Mary is thriving. She smiles more, interacts with others, and enjoys a level of independence and quality of life that once seemed out of reach. She is on the road to returning either to her condominium or moving into an assisted living apartment on the campus. Her journey is a powerful reminder that age does not define recovery and with compassionate care and perseverance, meaningful improvement is possible. The Napoleon Campus is poised to help Mary with whatever level of care she needs.

FOUNDATION

Soon construction will begin on the third and final pocket park to be located on the adjacent Genacross Luther Crest and Luther Woods campuses in Toledo. This pocket park will focus on physical fitness, featuring adaptive outdoor exercise equipment designed specifically for seniors to help improve strength, balance, and mobility. It joins the two previously completed parks. One park is centered around the environment with gardens and peaceful outdoor seating, and another is designed to support mental engagement through interactive and sensory features. Together, the parks will create a well-rounded set of spaces that promote overall wellness. The parks also offer residents inviting, accessible areas to stay active, relax, and connect with others while enjoying the outdoors.