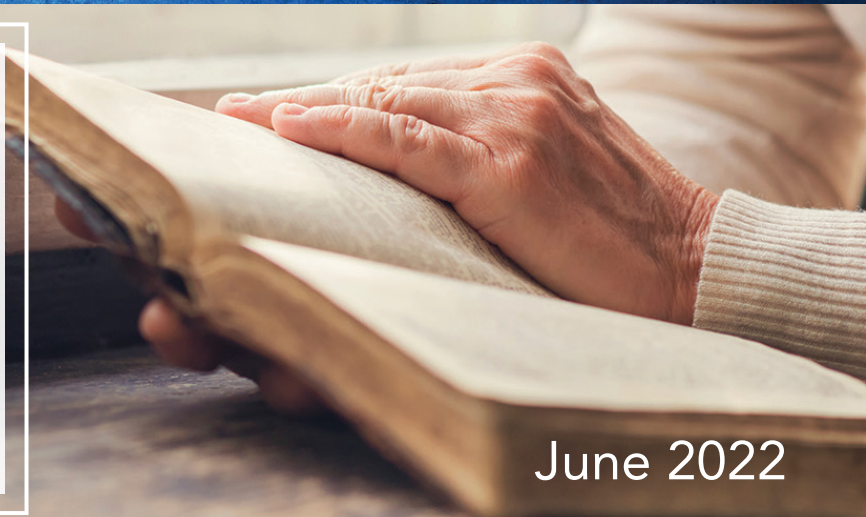




GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



June 2022

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“David,” an assisted living resident who has been living on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for several years, recently fell and was not quite able to return to his previous level of function. He was hesitant to go to the care center, but knew he was not able to stay safely in his assisted living apartment. The care team met with David and his family to walk them through the process and answer any questions. Afterward, he felt more comfortable about receiving short-term nursing care and therapy services in the care center. There was a month of hard work, but David grew stronger. While it was slow going at first, he kept with it each day. Finally, he was able to return to his assisted living apartment. David thanked the team for supporting him when he felt overwhelmed. He said they made him feel welcome and safe. When he returned home, Genacross at Home services were put in place to support his transition, as well as improve his balance and strength. The care team worked closely together to achieve David’s goals.

GENACROSS AT HOME

“Sarah” was in a skilled nursing facility for rehabilitation services relating to her severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Prior to going into the nursing facility, she had been going regularly to the ER to be treated for COPD complications. Sarah received therapy and nursing services for her COPD and several other medical complications while in the care facility. When she was able to return home, Sarah was very anxious about being able to control her medical conditions. Fortunately, her Genacross at Home nurse was there to provide the necessary education. Besides educating her on her numerous medical conditions, the nurse also provided training on her medications, including possible interactions and side effects. The Genacross at Home nurse completed several visits with Sarah to make sure she was comfortable with her care and educated on her medical complexities. When Sarah seemed more comfortable and confident, Genacross at Home discontinued nursing services. Therapists, however, continued to come to her home to build Sarah’s strength. Sarah has not felt the need to return to the ER for care, and she is more comfortable managing her COPD, under the guidance of her primary care physician.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Mike” is 66 years old and has numerous health complications. When he was admitted to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus in early February, he had a tracheostomy tube to help him breathe, a feeding tube to help him eat, and a wearable defibrillator to help his heart beat in rhythm. Mike was unable to walk, sit, stand, eat a normal diet, or breathe on his own. After receiving skilled nursing care and participating in therapy at the Wolf Creek Campus for several months, Mike was able to return home. He received home health care through Genacross at Home and was even able to have some of the same therapists who had worked with him as an inpatient. He now comes to the Wolf Creek Campus for outpatient therapy. Mike can breathe on his own, no longer needs to wear a defibrillator, eats a regular diet, and walks in to therapy under his own power. “They got me sitting up. They got me standing up. They got me walking,” Mike said. “I’m 98% - pretty close to normal. It is all because of the help I got here.”

Although pseudonyms are used in the above ministry stories, Genacross follows HIPAA guidelines and has either obtained permission from our residents, patients, or clients, or has sufficiently concealed their identities, thereby enabling us to use their stories of God’s grace.

GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

At age 12, “Jimmy” was placed at the Wynn Group Home after his single adoptive mother gave custody of him back to Children Services. She could not handle his extreme behaviors, which included threats of self-harm and threats toward others. His caseworker reported that Jimmy did not connect with people and often seemed “vacant.”



Jimmy told elaborate stories about a fantasy world and would often believe these fantasies to be real life. He also struggled in school and was behind his grade level in every subject. Staff at the Wynn Group Home worked to provide structure and to teach him social skills. He participated in both individual and group therapy on a weekly basis. While he still struggled in school, he did attend daily. Jimmy was able to form relationships with staff, but he still was not connecting with his peers. After over two years at the Wynn Group Home, Jimmy felt he needed a change. While Family & Youth staff and his therapist did not feel that he was ready to step down to a foster home or return home to his adoptive family, they decided to transition him to the Genacross Maumee Youth Center. Once there, Jimmy began to thrive and his interactions with peers improved. He began running 5K races with staff and peers. He also began having regular visits with his mother and younger sister. Recently, she was able to move into a house that was more suitable for Jimmy, which paved the way for him to move back home after his last day of school this year.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Jerry,” who is 70 years old, lives at one of the Genacross affordable senior communities in Toledo. During a recent annual inspection by the manager and service coordinator, it came to light that Jerry was living in unsanitary conditions. He had lost his life partner a year ago and has been having an extremely hard time dealing with the loss. After several weeks passed and there had not been much progress made on improving his living conditions, Jerry received a lease violation. He knew it was time to get serious. Over the next few weeks, Jerry started to make some major progress, and a follow-up inspection revealed that each area of his apartment was becoming cleaner. The housing site’s service coordinator also worked with him to develop a progress improvement plan to guide him in cleaning sections of his apartment. Recently, Jerry has completely transformed his apartment. He can sleep in his own bed and there are no items on the floor. The coordinator also worked with Jerry to enable him to let go of his life partner’s personal effects. He decided to honor her memory by donating her clothes, shoes and other items for others to use. “Jerry really has worked hard and is so proud of himself and his progress,” the service coordinator said. “You can see the weight being lifted off him,” the manager added. “He looks very pleased with finally making his apartment his own.”

FOUNDATION

Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation has collaborated with Zion Lutheran Church in Waterville and received a micro grant from the Northwestern Ohio Synod ELCA for a new way to worship via “Baseball Church,” which will include Genacross youth and older adult residents. The purpose of Baseball Church is to engage with people outside of the “church family” by attending a Mud Hens game and having a worship component at the game, as well as food and fun. The hope is to create relationships with people beyond the walls of the church by bringing together those who have a passion for baseball and fellowship. The program includes a book, “Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game” by John Sexton, for each participant. “We were thrilled to be asked to apply and then to be chosen for this micro grant,” said Mike George, Foundation Executive Director. “Our residents will be so excited to attend this event and participate in the fellowship that will come from this unique idea,” said Rick Marshall, Genacross President/CEO. “It is a way to honor our commitment to our residents by providing them with opportunities to grow through life’s journey with God,” he added.