



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services

April 2022

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Christopher” has had a troubled early life. When he was 8 years old, he went to live with an aunt and uncle, where he struggled living in this new home. Christopher’s family tried to help by engaging him in therapy and adding supports at school. Unfortunately, by the time he was 12 years old, his aggression and other behaviors were too severe, and he was placed in a residential treatment center. After only a month and a half, the residential center decided to release him from care and provided Children Services with a 30-day notice to find a new placement. Subsequently, he was placed at the Genacross Maumee Youth Center, where some of the same behaviors initially continued. However, staff found that Christopher had a sense of humor and could be respectful with adults. Applying the no-eject/no-reject policy that Genacross Family & Youth Services has followed for years, staff and therapists worked with Christopher on anger management and social skills. Because of this refusal to give up on him, Christopher gradually made progress. Behaviors in school and interactions with peers slowly improved. Now, Christopher is a junior in high school. He attends a vocational program training to be a firefighter and EMT. He is passing all of his mainstream classes and is certified in first aid and CPR. He returns home from school each day proud to wear his fire gear and excitedly discusses the program with anyone who will listen. He is flourishing in his Genacross home environment.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Jason,” who is in his mid-40s, is one of the youngest assisted living residents on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. His residency on the Wolf Creek Campus has been an essential part of a major turn-around in his life. The change began with a fall in July of last year; a fall that badly broke Jason’s ankle. He required surgical intervention and therapy. However, it became clear to Jason’s care team that Jason had greater needs. He had several mental health disorders that co-existed with a long-term alcohol dependency. After Jason completed his inpatient therapy at another facility, the Wolf Creek Campus became his home to continue his healing and growth. In Wolf Creek’s assisted living, his needs could be coordinated and his life stabilized. He receives consistent, nutritious meals; his medications are administered by nurses; he has access to physical and occupational therapies; and he receives support for his sobriety. Most of all, he has been accepted as part of a community of residents and staff. Jason recently celebrated eight months sober. Through the therapy services he has received, he has moved from being fully wheelchair dependent to being able to walk short distances without support. He has lost weight and has experienced a change in outlook and mood. The Wolf Creek Campus’ focus on caring for the whole person has been a success. “I’m so thankful for Wolf Creek. They saved my life,” Christopher said.



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.

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GENACROSS AT HOME

Genacross at Home is licensed to offer social services to its home health patients as needs arise. Due to the current shortage of qualified individuals for employment, Genacross at Home has struggled over the past two years to employ the necessary staff to provide social service coordination for its home health patients. Over the past couple of months, however, Genacross at Home leadership has worked with Genacross housing ministry leadership to utilize the service coordinators at the affordable housing sites with Genacross at Home patients. Almost instantly, Genacross at Home has had success with several cases where patients had transportation needs, hoarding issues, mental health concerns, and/or home-delivered meals that needed to be coordinated. The housing service coordinators are now working with the home health team to help bridge the gap for home health patients. It is a great partnership not only for patients, but also for staff members.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Betty” was no longer doing well living on her own at home. Her son reached out to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus to discuss the possibility of moving her into an assisted living apartment at Alpine Village. However, this conversation had not yet taken place with Betty, and the family was very apprehensive about how to navigate the upcoming changes. The Napoleon Campus administrator and social worker met with the family to discuss the different options. Betty was also assessed to determine her level of care. Subsequently, the team answered phone calls from different family members, as each had a different question about what might happen in the transition. The Genacross team understands the fear and uncertainty of older adults during this major life change. Ultimately, Betty’s children decided that long-term care would be the best fit for their mother. She met with the social worker and her family to discuss her wants and needs. Keeping Betty at the center of the care plan is vital, because this is her life, and she needs to have a voice in what happens to her. Betty did make the Napoleon Campus her new home, and she is thriving as a long-term care resident. Advocating for families and their loved ones is an important part of what the care team does so major life changes go as smooth as possible.



HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

The Genacross Service Coordinator working at Luther Pines met recently with a representative from the Area Agency on Aging in Lima, Ohio (AAA3) to discuss the needs of seniors and ideas for programming partnerships to benefit Luther Pines residents. AAA3 is conducting a survey that asks members of the community what seniors need to remain independent and successful. When the survey is completed, the ideas will be reviewed and funding placed into the appropriate categories. Luther Pines residents had come up with several ideas, including transportation for more than two grocery runs or two medical appointments a month and more wheelchair accessible transportation options. They also requested more funding for the Dining to Improve Socialization & Health (DISH), Meals on Wheels, and Senior Farmers’ Market nutrition programs to reduce or eliminate long waiting lists. Residents would also like opportunities to go to free or low-cost music concerts, local restaurants, museums in Dayton, or baseball games in Cincinnati. They also shared that more home health aides are needed to provide care and expressed their frustration with the wait to see local physicians and the fact that those doctors are not staying in the area. The proactive actions of the Luther Pines Service Coordinator, communicating with the AAA3 on behalf of the residents, helped them feel that their concerns regarding many of the services that keep them independent and living at home are actually being heard.

FOUNDATION

“Susan” is 7 years old and lives in one of the Genacross Family & Youth Services group homes. She has never spoken a word in her short life. Prior to her arrival at Genacross, Susan endured neglect and abuse that permanently stunted her abilities. The care (24/7/365) provided by the dedicated Family & Youth staff is very intensive. The dedicated front-line staff work with Susan and all of the children in the youth group homes to make sure they reach their potential. Further, these individuals are the hands and eyes of God, providing spiritual comfort to kids who have been forgotten. The staff members’ love and compassion have helped countless children in care. That happens in part by support from the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation and through donor’s financial support of it. Were it not for donor support, Susan could be in a different setting, likely one that does not provide God-centered care.