



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



March 2022

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Susan” is 93 years old and has several progressive ailments that make her life difficult. Alzheimer’s disease has taken some of her memory and affects her sense of time, while heart and kidney problems have weakened her body. Still, Susan is happy, vibrant, and engaging. The Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus has been Susan’s home for the last seven years, because she has been able to stay on the campus as her care needs have evolved. She moved into a Creekside condominium in 2015 and lived an active, independent life. During the pandemic, though, her chronic conditions worsened. In the spring of last year, Susan moved into an assisted living apartment on the Wolf Creek Campus. Her meals are provided, her medication managed, and she can attend chapel services in the same building. About a month ago when she became ill, Susan had a brief stay in the hospital. When it was time to return home, she needed more support than the assisted living staff could provide, so she began a short-term rehabilitation stay at the Health Center on campus. Currently, she has met most of her rehab goals. She feels stronger and wants to get back to her apartment. If all continues to go well, that move will happen soon.

## GENACROSS AT HOME



“Judy,” a young, hard-working woman, went to her doctor for a routine procedure. During the procedure, she experienced complications that led to further surgeries and was placed on a feeding tube as a temporary nutritional measure. She spent several weeks in the hospital until she was strong enough to return home. Genacross at Home received a referral for Judy’s health care needs when she was discharged from the hospital. The Genacross nurse met Judy and her family at her house the day she came home and spent several hours educating them on her ongoing care needs. The nurse spent the next two weeks meeting with Judy and her family members to teach and train them how best to help Judy continue her recovery. When they were competent with the tube feedings and knew how to order supplies, and Judy could take her medications on her own, Genacross at Home was able to discharge her from care. Over the next few months, Judy came off the feeding tube and was able to return to her job on a part-time basis, eventually working her way back to full-time status and regaining her independence.

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

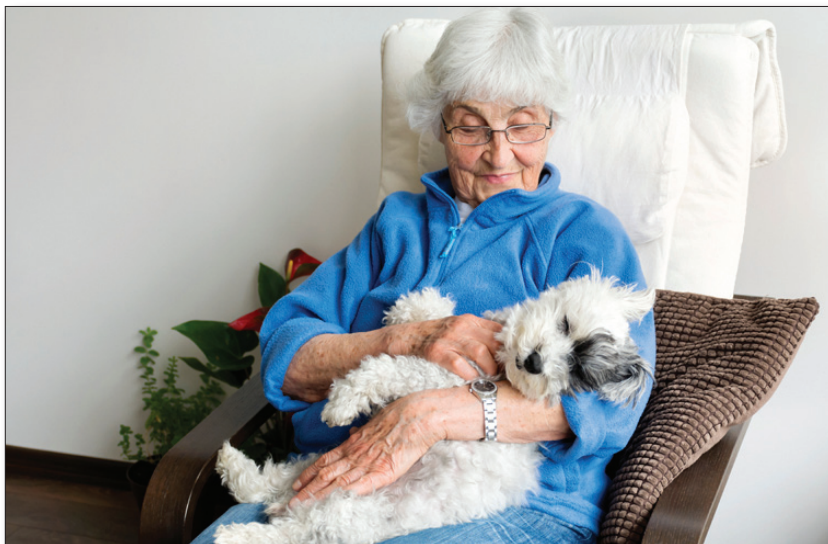
“Nicholas” was placed at the Genacross Maumee Youth Center (MYC) in June 2021. Although only 10 years old, he had experienced several failed foster placements. Reportedly, he struggled with anger problems and could not be managed in his most recent foster home. His foster family believed Nicholas needed more attention than they could provide. He responded well to the structure at MYC and transitioned to the Anthony Wayne Group Home in July. Staff members continued to provide a similar structure, and, along with Nicholas’ therapist, they taught him coping and anger management skills. After a potential adoption fell through, staff and his therapist worked with Nicholas to use the coping skills learned at Genacross to avoid regressing to past behaviors. In the months since that unrealized opportunity, another family has been identified as a potential adoptive home for Nicholas. His therapist will help prepare the family and teach them skills to help Nicholas thrive in their home. Staff members will also provide information on interventions that work well with Nicholas and coping skills that he finds most helpful. Genacross Family & Youth Services is committed to ensuring Nicholas’ success in his transition to a forever home.

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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## HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Marsha,” an 81-year-old resident of Genacross’ Luther Grove senior community in east Toledo, has a faithful canine companion of 12 years named Fluffy. Recently, Marsha experienced pain in her left shoulder and tightness in her chest, and called emergency services by utilizing the medical alert button provided by the property. Because her electrocardiogram (EKG) was abnormal, the emergency responders wanted to take her to the hospital for further testing, but Marsha did not want to leave until arrangements were made to care for Fluffy. The Genacross Service Coordinator was able to reassure Marsha by immediately calling an emergency contact to ensure Fluffy would be fed, let out and given her treats. This assistance enabled Marsha to focus on her own health and wellness, so she could return home and be able to care for Fluffy without any issues. Pets give residents companionship, unconditional love, and a reason to remain active, and service coordinators can make a world of difference by showing compassionate care for residents and their pets.



## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

The new Activities Director at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus thought it would be hard to come home to Napoleon after being away for 23 years. Luckily, the transition back to northwest Ohio was much easier than expected, in a large part due to her new career at the Napoleon Campus. It only took her a few days to begin settling in, as she introduced herself to the residents, who had many questions. She had never thought about the possible connections she already had with the residents before she even started as Activities Director. Many of the residents know her mother, which means she is often referred to as “Charlotte’s daughter.” In addition, several of the residents attended church with her grandparents, so she is also known as “Harold and Regina’s granddaughter.” The story continues, with several residents being good friends with her aunts and uncles, and many of them even related to her. Some residents, and even a long-time employee, knew her great-grandmother who was one of the first residents of the campus. She even reconnected with one resident who was her babysitter when she was a young girl. These connections put a smile on her face, as well as smiles on the residents’ faces, when they reminisce about the past, how their paths have crossed, and the relationships that have been built through mutual family and friends. Coming home and working at Genacross have enabled a marvelous transformation; one she truly appreciates. She will never forget her first few weeks as Activities Director at the Napoleon Campus. She is home.

## FOUNDATION

The Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation recently hosted a group of students involved in Youth in Philanthropy Encouraging Excellence (YIPEE), a program for high school juniors and seniors wishing to learn more about community needs and the elements of thoughtful giving. The program’s goal is to establish a foundation for a lifelong commitment to leadership, volunteerism, and philanthropy. The students spent a Sunday afternoon touring our historic Lutheran Orphans’ Home Museum located at 2411 Seaman Road in Toledo. The students learned about life in the orphanage circa 1940. They then spent the rest of the afternoon at the Blackmon Alternative Learning Center, located across the street on land that was part of the former orphanage’s farm. While there, the students learned about the Genacross Family & Youth Services program and the challenges facing kids in the foster care system. They heard firsthand from Family & Youth staff members about the challenges and successes of the youth living in the program’s group home settings. They also made blankets and signed cards to give as gifts to residents in the group homes. Genacross is always happy to meet with individuals and community groups interested in learning about our history and the work of our ministries.