



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



July 2022

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Dale" was a senior in high school when he entered the Bridges program, which provides guidance and support for young adults leaving foster care in Ohio. He had several supports in place through the local Board of Developmental Disabilities and the group home where he lived, but Bridges provided the extra support he needed to enter into young adulthood successfully. Dale really likes spending time with his liaison at Genacross Family & Youth Services. He was grateful for the liaison's help in picking out clothes for prom. He also appreciated that he helped him get a job. Dale describes himself as a hard worker who enjoys heavy lifting. If someone shows him how to do something, he will do it well. When he puts his mind to something, he accomplishes it because he likes to prove people wrong who do not believe in him. He does not like to talk about his past and why he was removed from his parent's home. Instead, Dale focuses on his future. He has a goal to get his driver's license, but for now, the Bridges program bought him a bike that he uses to get to and from work. Now that Dale has graduated, he plans to move into a group home closer to his hometown and his mom. He will remain in the Bridges program and work with a new liaison. Dale is excited about his future.

## HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES



"Jim" is a 75-year-old resident who resides at one of the Genacross senior communities in Toledo. Jim came to the service coordinator's office this month and shared the positive outcome of a video telehealth appointment that he had with his doctor. The service coordinator, who is an LPN, provides monthly wellness clinics at all of our senior housing sites. At these clinics, the coordinator provides a booklet for each of the participating residents (including Jim) to record their monthly vital checks. During his recent doctor's appointment, Jim pulled out his booklet filled with his blood pressure and other vitals, and he shared the relevant health information with his doctor. Jim not only got a clean bill of health, but the doctor praised the service coordinator for providing the free wellness clinics to Genacross housing residents. Each month, Jim looks forward to these clinics, which help guide him along his health journey.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Staff members at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus understand that transitioning to life on the campus can be difficult. Recently, two widows moved to Bavarian Village on the Napoleon Campus after living in their own homes for many years. Team members kept in close contact with both "Mary" and "Grace" to ensure their transitions to independent living on the campus went as smoothly as possible. They met with the women multiple times to tour the condominiums and discuss the processes involved in the move. When they arrived on campus, everyone made sure to make them feel welcome, as emotions were running high for Mary, Grace, and several members of their families. Taking the time to explain the processes, listen to their concerns, and meet their needs helped ease everyone's minds during the transition to Mary and Grace's new homes.

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

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Brian” had a love for the open road and worked many years as a long-haul truck driver. As much as Brian loved road life, it was hard on his body. He smoked. He ate unhealthy fast food. He sat countless hours in his driver’s chair. One day last December he felt ill, checked into the hospital, and ended up needing heart bypass surgery. Five weeks later, Brian was doing much better, but then he had a stroke. As a result, he was completely paralyzed on the right side of his body. He was unable to talk or eat, and he could not care for even his most basic needs. Brian came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus for his recovery. Initially, it was slow going. His brain injury led to impulsiveness. He resisted therapy. He fell despite every precaution. Eventually, however, Brian’s brain healed. He realized the benefits of the therapy and began engaging in it actively. Six months later, Brian is walking the length of the building. He can care for his basic needs and feed himself. Speech is taking time, but Brian’s therapists and care team are confident it will come. This road to recovery is one Brian is proving he can handle.

## GENACROSS AT HOME

Typically, skilled home health is approved for 60 days of treatment in the home to teach and train patients to help manage their chronic health conditions and improve their quality of life. If patients are not able to manage their care and health conditions at the end of the initial period, Genacross at Home works with the patients’ physicians to recertify them for an additional 60 days of care. “Sam” is a Genacross at Home patient, who had been progressing in her treatments. In fact, she had been discharged from both nursing care and occupational therapy services, but physical therapy was proving more difficult.

In one of Sam’s last treatments, her therapist noticed that her strength and stability had decreased and she was struggling with her movements and walking. The therapist discussed these concerns with Sam, and it was determined, due to her chronic medical conditions, that she had experienced a setback and would need to continue with physical therapy past her initial days of skilled home health services. The therapist called Sam’s primary care physician and explained the situation. The physician agreed to write orders for additional care. Genacross at Home then worked with Sam’s insurance for the necessary approval, and Sam will continue physical therapy with Genacross at Home for another 60 days.



## FOUNDATION

Because Genacross Lutheran Services is always striving to improve the lives of the older adults served in its affordable housing communities, the organization is beginning construction on the first of three senior adaptive parks to be built at our Luther Crest and Luther Woods joint campus located on Holland-Sylvania Road. These small pocket parks will each have a different theme. One will focus on the environment to promote relaxation and healing. Another fitness park will focus on the body to improve and maintain mobility. The third park will focus on the mind to boost memory and alertness. Thanks to generous donations to the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation, the first environment park is fully funded, and construction will begin soon. In addition, Genacross is partnering with the Toledo Natural Science Technology Center to have student involvement in the project. They have agreed to provide guidance with the plantings needed for the environment park, and students will also be providing education to the residents on the plant choices. The Foundation is excited to make these senior adaptive parks the first of their kind in northwest Ohio.