



# GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of  
Genacross Lutheran Services



May 2022

## HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Deb,” an 84-year-old resident at Luther Haus in Temperance, Michigan, was struggling with getting her wheelchair to work properly. She has a condition that does not allow her to bend her legs at the knee, so a wheelchair is how she moves around. Deb approached the Genacross Service Coordinator about the loud noises her wheelchair was making, even after having repair work done. The noises were causing Deb to become very agitated. She informed the Service Coordinator that she had called the wheelchair supplier several times about having someone come out to look at it, but she was told no one was available anytime soon. When the Service Coordinator contacted the durable medical equipment supplier, she discovered that they are short staffed and unsure when someone would be in the area to look at the wheelchair. After determining that dropping off the wheelchair would be quicker, the coordinator worked with Deb’s family to coordinate dropping it off to be fixed. The coordinator also loaned Deb an extra wheelchair from Luther Haus that she could use in the meantime. A few days later, Deb shared that her wheelchair could not be repaired and that she would be receiving a new one. She is very thankful for the help provided by the coordinator.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS



Prior to arriving at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus, “Steve” tested positive for COVID-19 and spent more than two months recovering at several different hospitals. Initially, he was hesitant to come to the Napoleon Campus for therapy services. However, after talking with good friends, he decided to try the campus’ services. His goal was to receive aggressive therapy, so he could return home by the end of March. Steve worked closely with the physical therapists to improve his balance, endurance and strength. The therapists challenged him with a variety of interventions to improve his dynamic balance index and increase functional mobility and tasks. Steve accomplished more than he thought he could and went home in early March. He continues to come to the Napoleon Campus for outpatient therapy services. Steve is pleased with the quality of the therapy services he has received and now highly recommends them to others. On a scale of 1-10, he rates the Napoleon Campus a 10.

## GENACROSS AT HOME

“Sarah” lives with her son, who cares for her daily needs. After Sarah had some recent health issues and needed to be admitted to the hospital, she required home health services to return home. Sarah and her son chose to have Genacross at Home provide her in-home care and teach him how to care for Sarah’s additional needs. She did well for a while at home, but then had medical setbacks that required her to return to the hospital. While there, Sarah declined rapidly and had to be placed on a ventilator. After much discussion with the Genacross at Home and hospital clinical teams, the son finally agreed that it was best for Sarah to discharge from the hospital with hospice services in place. Sarah is now back at home and resting comfortably.

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

“Allie” has a history of multiple placements, including both foster care and residential treatment, because of unruly, aggressive, and delinquent behaviors. While living at home, she threatened to harm many family members, attacked several other children in her mother’s home, and punched a teacher at school. Allie was hospitalized six times in less than a year, including twice for suicidal behavior. She had auditory hallucinations and would often talk to people that were not there. Eventually, extended family intervened, hoping they could care for Allie. She moved to California in hopes of a more stable home. Unfortunately, after only one month, she displayed homicidal behavior toward her caregivers and was returned to Ohio. Soon after, she was placed at the Genacross Maumee Youth Center. Allie quickly met with the psychiatric nurse practitioner to address her auditory hallucinations. She also met with her therapist for individual therapy and group counseling. Staff members provided a structured and caring environment, and taught and encouraged her to use coping skills. Allie quickly began to flourish, and she even became a role model for the younger girls. She attends a vocational program for graphic design and has a 4.0 grade point average. She was inducted into the National Honor Society in April and has begun searching for a part-time job. Allie is now thriving in her Genacross home.

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Toward the end of last year, “Arlene” was diagnosed with COVID pneumonia at her local hospital. Two weeks later, she suffered a significant decline and was transferred to a major medical center, where she was intubated and placed on a ventilator for several weeks. Arlene survived, but she suffered a lack of oxygen to the brain and a stroke during her illness. After going to a rehabilitation hospital, she came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus to continue her recovery. When she arrived, Arlene could only move her head to the left, received all her nutrients through a feeding tube, and could not communicate her needs to staff.

Slowly, Arlene began to progress with the help of therapy and nursing staff. Early on, a big emphasis was placed on preventing the contraction of her limbs from lack of use. “We did a lot of passive range of motion and encouragement because she couldn’t communicate well,” the Director of Therapy said. “We used special tools such as an e-stim to help repair nervous system damage and diathermy, which uses heat to make stretching easier.” Arlene’s function and communication began to return. She discharged home, where nursing and therapy support continued through Genacross at Home. Finally, Arlene was able to continue her rehab as an outpatient, returning to Wolf Creek’s gym for therapy. She now walks with the help of a cane and is focusing on improving her fine motor skills.



## FOUNDATION

Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation has established a Staff Benevolence Fund as the result of a donation from a loyal supporter. The fund’s purpose is to provide immediate financial assistance to needy employees of Genacross Lutheran Services. The fund is intended to provide basic necessities and temporary relief for employees and family members who are in need as a direct result of an emergency. Over the years, the Foundation has assisted employees with support ranging from assistance after a fire, help with the burial costs of a loved one, and temporary rental assistance following a catastrophe. None of this could happen without the generous support of donors who saw a need and fulfilled a call to action to make a difference in the lives of others. The Staff Benevolence Fund is a living example of our mission: “Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life’s journey.”