

# The FRIEND

GENACROSS LUTHERAN SERVICES



VOLUME CVIII No. 2 SPRING/SUMMER 2022

## ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS LEADERS AND THE FUTURE

The Genacross Lutheran Services' 162nd Annual Meeting of Member Congregations, held on April 7, was a virtual-only event this year. Nearly 70 people registered for the abbreviated annual meeting, including 39 voting delegates representing 25 churches.

"While this virtual format is not our preference, it does allow us to conduct a safe and effective annual meeting," explained President/CEO Rick Marshall. "Our hope is that next year we can return to our in-person format and enjoy food, fellowship, and entertainment, in addition to conducting our necessary business."



*The Rev. Keith Hunsinger, Board Chair, (far left) leads the virtual 2022 Annual Meeting, which was broadcast from the boardroom at the Genacross Ministry Support office.*

After a prayer and greetings from judicatories, Genacross recognized the following directors who had completed their terms: Michael Bogdan, the Rev. Richard Habrecht, the Rev. Keith Hunsinger, and Dr. Natalie Jackson from the Genacross Lutheran Services Board of Directors. Genacross also honored Eric Johnson, Dennis McGhee, Jeanene Pifer, and the Rev. Jerald Rayl from the Toledo Campus ministry

board, as well as the Rev. Pete Bowmer from the Family & Youth Services ministry board.

Attendees also viewed a testimonial from Lynn Olman, whose family has been involved with Genacross on

many levels for over two decades. Not only did he share his mother-in-law and father's wonderful care experiences at the Wolf Creek Campus, but he also talked about his service to the Board of Directors and his family's financial commitment to support the organization's mission.

Mr. Marshall then began his CEO Report by remembering former President/CEO David Roberts, his predecessor, who recently passed away (see pages 2 and 3). He went on to speak about positioning Genacross for a changing future. He outlined the reasons for the Toledo Campus sale and emphasized that Genacross remains committed to the east side of Toledo through affordable housing communities, youth group homes, and home health services.

He also spoke about weathering the storms of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and expressed that the biggest challenge now is staffing. He shared some recruitment and retention strategies designed to combat the fierce competition for a limited workforce. He also touched on the official opening of the new youth group



*Technical professionals from Markey's broadcasting & media production lend their expertise for the event.*

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## OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Christian faith, we embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life's journey.

## OUR VISION

Through our faith and work, we strive to be a forward-thinking, compassionate organization that improves the lives of current and future generations.

## OUR VALUES

Faithfulness to Christ

Equality and Justice

Wholeness of Life

Integrity

Quality of Service

Stewardship of Resources

## OUR MINISTRIES

**Genacross Lutheran Services**

*Napoleon Campus*

**Genacross Lutheran Services**

*Wolf Creek Campus*

**Genacross Home & Community**

**Based Services**

**Genacross at Home**

**Genacross Family &**

**Youth Services**

**Genacross Lutheran Services**

**Foundation**

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A note from

# RICK MARSHALL

*President and CEO*



## A legacy of leadership

At Genacross Lutheran Services, we recently mourned the loss and celebrated the life of Dave Roberts, who passed away on March 26. Dave was President/CEO of Lutheran Homes Society (now Genacross) from 1994 until his retirement in early 2015.

During his tenure, Dave presided over tremendous growth for our organization, including the establishment of our Wolf Creek Campus, the construction of multiple affordable housing communities, and the expansion of our Family & Youth Services ministry.

Dave was a tireless advocate for the populations we serve. In 2007, he led the establishment of a formal Public Policy Advocacy Plan that became a model for other organizations to follow. He was called upon to testify to the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee and was consistently advocating to national and local legislators on behalf of youth and older adults.

As the leader of this organization, Dave had a passion and enthusiasm that was contagious. If you were around Dave, you knew how much he cared about our mission and that positive attitude permeated throughout our various ministries.

Upon his retirement, he was incredibly gracious to me and supportive as I assumed the role of President/CEO. He was always available to provide a listening ear, but was never pushy with advice. His goal was always to support my success and that of the organization in any way he could. I counted Dave as a good friend and someone I could always rely on.

Dave also continued to show his support to Genacross through generous financial contributions, primarily to the Staff Benevolence Fund established by him and his family. Countless Genacross employees have benefitted from his generosity when they faced financial hardships and challenges. The fund continues to draw contributions and will help many more of our team members in the future.

Thousands of lives were positively impacted during his leadership tenure, and his legacy lives on as Genacross builds upon the solid foundation he laid. I was blessed to call Dave a friend.

Blessings,

## IN MEMORY OF DAVID I. ROBERTS (1948-2022)

**G**enacross Lutheran Services lost a great leader, advocate, friend, and supporter when David I. Roberts, Executive Director and President/CEO from 1994 to 2015, passed away on March 26, 2022. He died at McLaren St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee, Ohio, after developing breathing complications from Parkinson's disease.

"I have served on numerous boards and commissions in my life, but I have never worked with a more dedicated, selfless, hard-working and mission-driven CEO in my life," said Lynn Olman, former Chair of the Board of Directors. "Dave was truly a servant of God and an inspiration to all who knew him."

Under his leadership, the organization experienced tremendous growth and expanded the number of people it was able to serve. For the 20 years of Mr. Robert's tenure, the number of residents, patients, and clients served increased from 643 to 3,685 per year.

The organization's mission expanded in many ways, including the addition of the 46-acre Wolf Creek Campus in Holland, Ohio, which was the first to offer the assisted living level of care. Services to youth grew through the addition of the Maumee Youth Center, independent living for young adults, and an alternate learning center. Senior affordable housing options also increased with the opening of Luther Hills in Oregon, Kettle Run in Bucyrus; Covenant Harbor I and II in Oak Harbor; Luther Ridge in Oregon; Bethany Place in Fremont, and Luther Haus in Temperance, Michigan.

Furthermore, Mr. Roberts was instrumental in adding a community services component to the organization's service line, collaborating with numerous organizations to benefit youth and older adults, and creating a Public Policy Advocacy Plan that enabled Lutheran Homes Society to become a national voice on issues affecting youth and the elderly.

"Dave was a terrific person, mentor, and spiritual leader, but most of all, a great friend," said Lorinda Schalk, Senior Vice President of Finance & Operations. "Working with him for 12 years was a true blessing, and he taught me a great deal about leadership and inspiring others."

Before joining Lutheran Homes Society (now Genacross), Mr. Roberts served in the U.S. Navy for four years and then worked at Champion Spark Plug for 23 years. While at Champion, he earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in business from the University of Toledo. In 1990, he joined the organization as Assistant to the Executive Director, the Rev. Gerald Labuhn. Upon the retirement of Pastor Labuhn in 1994, Mr. Roberts became Executive Director.

Mr. Roberts was a strong family man who is survived by his wife, Pam, two daughters and their spouses, and numerous grandchildren. Most importantly, he left a legacy of loving the Lord and was a faithful student of the Word until the day he passed away. A funeral service was held on April 1 at Walker Funeral Home and was followed by a private committal service with military honors.



*Mr. Roberts participated in the 2004 groundbreaking ceremony for Covenant Harbor senior community in Oak Harbor.*



*In 2007, Mr. Roberts testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee on the need for increasing affordable senior housing.*



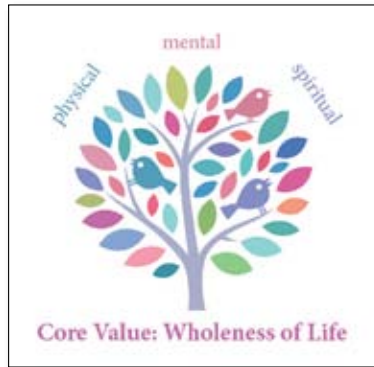
*Mr. Roberts presented a plaque to the Educational Coordinator at the 2008 dedication of the alternate learning center for youth in east Toledo.*

## WHOLENESS OF LIFE BRINGS ABUNDANCE TO MINISTRIES

Throughout 2022, Genacross Lutheran Services is emphasizing the third of its six Core Values, “Wholeness of Life,” as one of the ways our ministries seek to “embrace individuals and families with compassionate care and services throughout life’s journey.”

In the past two years, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has taught us an important lesson, reminding us, sometimes in a cruel way, of the importance of the efforts to provide that wholeness. While the virus afflicted many residents, it also devastated so many more with loneliness and heartache. It wounded the families of countless residents, as well, for that kind of brokenness and pain goes both ways.

In this, Genacross has been reminded of the critical importance of wholeness for the lives of young and old, alike. Not only are individuals physical beings, but they are also mental and spiritual beings. Recognizing this, Genacross staff work hard to provide wholeness, offering meaningful activities, access to physical and occupational



therapies, consistent and nutritious meals, and spiritual support. For residents on our Wolf Creek and Napoleon campuses, this includes worship and personal pastoral care provided by our chaplains.

This emphasis on Wholeness of Life extends past our care campuses. Each of our senior housing communities has an on-site Service Coordinator to assist residents in procuring services, such as home health care, housekeeping and delivered meals. These coordinators also work with the managers to plan social activities and build a sense of community for the residents.

At Genacross Family & Youth Services, wholeness also includes behavioral health counseling and family support services, creating a home environment for the youth in care.

As our Genacross team members walk along with residents and patients during their journeys, they emulate the Lord in their work, in order that those whom they serve “...may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:10)

### Annual meeting- continued from front page

home in Adrian, Michigan, the partnership of Genacross at Home with Senior Options, and the master planning process going on to re-position the Napoleon Campus.

While there was no new business for congregational delegates to vote on, they did elect four members to the Genacross Board of Directors: the Rev. Ann Marshall, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran, Norwalk; the Rev. Jonathon Rusche, Trinity Lutheran, Toledo; Richard Sipp, Zoar Lutheran, Perrysburg; and Melissa Warner, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, Perrysburg. Delegates also elected Beth Charvat, Grace Evangelical Lutheran, Toledo, to the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation Board of Directors. In addition, four candidates were elected to one-year terms on the Nominating Committee.

Before the evening ended, Board Chair Hunsinger and Mr. Marshall took a few moments to recognize the retirement of the Rev. Dr. James Dumke, Vice President for Mission Integration, who has served the organization for more than 20 years.

### Dr. Dumke retires after 21 years



Numerous co-workers, friends, and colleagues gathered on May 2 to honor the many years of service by the Rev. Dr. James Dumke, Vice President for Mission Integration. An open house was held in the boardroom at the Ministry Support office to celebrate his retirement. His dedication to our mission, words of encouragement, and strong faith will be missed by his Genacross family.

# GRADUATIONS HERALD IN FUTURES NEVER IMAGINED

At Genacross Family & Youth Services, spring means new beginnings for two young men who graduated from high school near the end of May. These young men have overcome adversity and challenges that most people will never face in their lives.

According to the National Foster Youth Institute, youth growing up in foster care are three times more likely than their peers to drop out of high school, and fewer than 13 percent will attend college. In total, only 3 percent will earn a college degree.

“Completing high school is an accomplishment neither young man thought they would be able to achieve,” said Laura Hasyn, Director of Compliance for Family & Youth Services. “With perseverance, support from their caregivers, and, of course, hard work, they are preparing for adulthood and the new adventures that lie ahead.”

Each will take a different path, but both will use the skills they learned, acknowledge the mistakes they have made

along the way, and forge a new path in their own way. Both youth intend to stay local to the area and hope to find jobs that fit their interests and unique abilities.



“Their Family & Youth Services treatment teams have helped them by finding housing, purchasing needed items, and identifying local supports that they will need to continue to be successful,” Ms. Hasyn said. “These two were ready to don their robes and throw their hats as they begin anew and look toward their future, and we are excited to celebrate this major accomplishment with them.”

## Social work returns to Genacross at Home

Genacross at Home is licensed to offer social work services to its home health patients as needs arise. Finding the personnel to fill that role, however, has proven difficult, until recently when the home health agency came up with an innovative solution.

Because of 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 work services for its home health patients. Over the past couple of months, however, a couple of the service coordinators at the Genacross affordable housing sites have been working with the home health team to help bridge the gap for patients.



*Housing Service Coordinators Lauren Holub (left) and Arlena Williams also share their skills as Medical Social Workers with Genacross at Home.*

Almost instantly, Genacross at Home has had success with several cases where patients needed help with transportation, hoarding issues, mental health concerns, and/or home-delivered meals.

“It is a win-win situation and a great partnership, not only for our home health patients, but also for our staff members who can help more individuals,” said Amanda Schroeder, Vice President of Home & Community Based Services.

## Housing sites offer second booster



*Throughout April and May, many Genacross senior housing communities offered residents COVID-19 vaccination clinics, so they could receive the second booster shot. Above, Luther Crest resident Alvenia Crawford proudly displays her COVID-19 vaccination card.*

# KLEIN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The **Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation** financially supports Genacross employees who wish to advance their career in the health care field by encouraging them to apply for the Carl W. Klein Jr. Scholarship. This competitive scholarship can help employees pay for the cost of tuition for classes that develop their job-related knowledge and skills through an accredited institution.

“We are happy to announce that scholarships have been distributed to two Wolf Creek Campus employees so far,” said Mike George, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We wish them the best of luck.”

Scholarship recipient Deborah Arowolo, STNA, will be attending Athena Career Academy to become a licensed practical nurse, and the other recipient Shawn Mahone Jr., who works as a dietary aide, will be attending Bowling Green State University to study business.

Jack and Gretchen Grigsby established the Klein Scholarship to honor Gretchen’s father, Carl W. Klein. He served Genacross for many years as a member of the Board of Directors. As retired educators, the couple feels this scholarship is a fitting tribute to his memory.

The following guidelines have been established for employees to apply for the Klein Scholarship. To qualify, they must:

- Be a full-time or part-time (minimum 20 hours per week) structured position employee;
- Have completed six months of continuous employment;
- Have no active disciplines relating to performance and/or absenteeism;
- Present college or technical institution proof of enrollment or acceptance with scholarship application;
- Complete the entire application form (including a photocopy - an original is not required – indicating proof of enrollment or acceptance) for consideration 30 days prior to tuition due date; and
- Be a candidate for a degree at an eligible educational institution, as defined by the IRS, that provides a program to earn an associate, bachelor’s or higher degree, or offers a program of training to prepare students for employment in a recognized occupation.

If you have any questions, contact the Foundation at 419.861.4964.

*Executive Director Mike George presents Klein scholarship checks to employees Shawn Mahone Jr. (right) and Deborah Arowolo.*



## IN MEMORY OF

January 1 - March 31, 2022

**Sharon Bauer** by Rev. Dr. Gerald Bauer  
**My parents, LeRoy & Nellie Carter,** by Elaine Gladieux

**Pamela Chesnut** by Patricia Frizzell, Joel & Benet Rupp, Carol Rychener, Shirley Sullivan

**Dorothy Clark** by Howard & Dolores Oestreich

**Sandra Eubank** by Rebecca Kiefer, R.N.

**Elaine Ferguson** by Jean Winkelman

**Virginia Feusse** by Richard Feusse

**Jana Flynn** by Marna Jacobs

**Ray & Fran Grau** by Jim & Rachel Nissen

**Betty Guise** by Cheryl Daman

**Rev. Fred & Mrs. Dorothy Hagen** by DeAnna McCashin

**Helen Heacock** by Dennis & Jo Hagey

**Elmer & Beatrice Lanzer** by Vivian Lanzer

**Steve Lieb** by his loving family

**My husband, Thomas J. Longanbach,** by Mrs. Thomas Longanbach

**IN MEMORY OF**

January 1 - March 31, 2022

**Juanita Miller** by Sharon Schuster  
**Pastor Robert Miller** by Dorothy Mae Garst  
**Alma Mueller** by Lynn & Joyce Olman  
**My wife, Mary,** by Weldon Mueller  
**My son-in-law, Joe Nelson,** by Weldon Mueller  
**My husband, Andrew, on his birthday Feb 12,** by Helen Nowak  
**Virginia Pojedynski** by Diane Pojedynski, Nicholas Veghts  
**Randy Rahe** by Kevin & Christine Rahe  
**David Roberts** by Mark Mukhtar

**John & Brodie Schmich** by Debbie, Brandon & Brenton Schmich  
**George Smith** by Jean Winkelman  
**Roy Snyder, former resident of Luther Haus,** by Jean Winkelman  
**Clyde Tank** by Mrs. Frances Wilson  
**Carmen & Norman Wiechers** by their loving family  
**Anna Yunker** by Mary Jane Joehlin

**ORGANIZATIONAL DONATIONS**

January 1 - March 31, 2022

AmazonSmile Foundation, Seattle, WA  
 Benevity Community Impact Fund, Safety Harbor, FL  
 Charities Aid Foundation America, Andover, MA  
 Greater Toledo Community Foundation, Inc.  
 Kroger Community Rewards, Columbus  
 Medical Mutual of Ohio, Cleveland  
 Thrivent - YourCause, Plano, TX  
 Thrivent - Choice Dollars, Appleton, WI  
 TOPS #1648, Erie, MI

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**INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS**

January 1 - March 31, 2022

Beverly Apel	Glenn Geldien	Jeff & Sharon
Rev. Dr. Gerald Bauer	Victoria & Demetrius Harris	Przywiecki
Jason Beyer	Paula Hicks-Hudson	Dr. & Mrs. Michael Roetter Sr.
Patricia Blankenship	Sue Hoellrich	Jon Russell
Terry Bossert	Jeannette Kubitz	Mary Satterfield
Stephen & Deborah Bowsher	Marilyn & John Lechman	Jeff & Lorinda Schalk
Kari Bucher	Rev. & Mrs. Steve Lutz	Amanda Schroeder
Christina Burnette	Beverly Mackey	Jeff & Paige Schulte
Elizabeth Cannon	Rick & Janet Marshall	Jane Sharp
Angela Clay	Carol L. Meuser	Scott Slee
Diane Cline	Callie Minier	Carol Taylor
Robert & Darlene Cook	Melanie Moore	Lynn & John Warren
James Cordy	Weldon Mueller	Linda Weaver
Tamara Dawson-Kynard	Paul Nelson	Mr. John Wilmore & Dr. Elizabeth Halloran
Dr. Jim & Dawn Dumke	Lynn & Joyce Olman	Pat & Peggy Woods
Marlene Ford	Rev. Dr. Tim & Mrs. Kate Philabaum	Katie & Jay Zawisza

**IN HONOR OF**

January 1 - March 31, 2022

**The Nungester Brothers** by Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Nungester  
**Rev. Greg Olsen** by Bethel English Evangelical, Toledo  
**Our Heavenly Father, to whom we give thanks for all He provides for us,** by John Weislmeier  
**Jennie Parsons** by Phil & Marian Parsons  
**Lester Ramler's 90th Birthday** by Lester & Arlene Ramler

**CONGREGATIONAL DONATIONS**

January 1 - March 31, 2022

St. Martin, Archbold	Church of the Master, Perrysburg
Christ, Bowling Green	Shepherd of the Valley, Perrysburg
St. Paul, Bowling Green	Zoar, Perrysburg
St. Paul, Defiance	St. John, Port Clinton
Zion, Edgerton	St. John's, Stony Ridge
Grace, Fremont	St. John, Stryker
St. Mark, Fremont	St. Paul, Sulphur Springs
Zion, Gibsonburg	Olivet, Sylvania
St. Peter Evangelical, Norwalk	First St. John, Toledo
St. John, Oak Harbor	Holy Trinity, Toledo
St. Michael, Ottawa Lake, MI	Messiah, Toledo
Bethlehem, Pemberville	Solomon, Woodville

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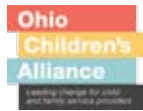
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## SKILLED NURSING CARE WEEK FOCUSES ON CONNECTIONS



During National Skilled Nursing Care Week, which ran May 8-14, the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus and the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus celebrated their team members who continuously strive to improve the quality of life for residents and patients. With the week's theme being "Creating and Nurturing Connections," both care campuses spent the week connecting employees and residents with each other and creating a whole lot of fun.



*Napoleon Campus resident Eugene Kline and Assistant Director of Nursing Ashley Strahm (top) connect on Twins Day, and staff wear their favorite team shirts for Sports Day.*



*Wolf Creek Campus resident Helen Spieker (top) connects with her inner artist, and staff members enjoy a buffet luncheon and parfait bar.*



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