



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services



September 2022

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Alice" had a rough start to the year. In January, the assisted living resident suffered a stroke that profoundly affected her ability to function daily. She lost the ability to walk, care for herself and even eat without assistance. The following month she experienced a pulmonary embolism – a life-threatening blood clot of the lungs. Subsequently, Alice moved to the Health Center on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus to receive long-term nursing care and support from the therapy staff. Initially, Alice could not move her right side, including her arm and leg. However, therapists did neuromuscular re-education, a series of repetitive exercises intended to restore the connection between Alice's brain and body. It was hard, frustrating and tiring work. "I just had to push myself," Alice said. "I knew I would never get better unless I went to therapy." Alice has improved remarkably. She can walk two-thirds the length of a football field with a walker. She requires some assistance for daily tasks, but mostly to help her if she has difficulties. She has the freedom to make her life enjoyable again.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Sometimes doing God's work looks a little like providing normalcy when working with youth in care. The youth who reside in the Genacross Family & Youth Services group homes do not always get to enjoy the typical things that children experience. Youth in care often attend alternate schools. There are sometimes restrictions on the activities they are able to participate in due to being in the custody of Children Services. Sometimes their behaviors and their anxiety levels prevent them from participating in activities. In August, however, two Family & Youth therapists planned carnivals for all of the youth in our Ohio-based programs. Each carnival had a dunk tank where the kids took turns dunking a therapist. The east side carnival had a pie in the face contest where the youth had the chance to throw a whipped cream pie in the face of one of the directors. There were also face painting and various carnival games where the kids could win prizes. Staff members were willing to get wet in water balloon fights. Lots of planning went into the carnivals by the therapists and staff members to make them successful. It was worth all of the work, as the youth had fun, but more importantly, they were able to just be kids for a while and do typical kid things.



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

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“John” came to the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus for therapy services. He chose the Napoleon Campus because his wife had lived there many years before. When she was there, he always felt like the staff treated them like family. When John arrived at the campus for therapy, he even remembered some of the staff members. He was a happy, upbeat patient who worked hard in therapy to get stronger. He was always polite and smiling. He really enjoyed the neuro gym equipment, which he said was a fun experience and helped him do more than he thought he could ever do. After a few months, however, his health declined. It was unexpected, but staff members worked diligently with John and his family to decide how to move forward. The family chose hospice services at the campus to keep John comfortable. They were all present to support him, and they all expressed gratitude for the staff’s love and support - for their dad now and their mom in the past. It is an honor to serve the residents. They become like family when staff members care for them over time and build strong, caring bonds.

HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

“Betty,” a resident at our Luther Oaks senior community in Norwalk, Ohio, has experienced declining vision for a couple years and is no longer able to read such items as newspapers, bills, or bingo cards. The service coordinator at Luther Oaks has assisted her in the past with minor accommodations, like marking the keyhole on her mailbox, recommending large-print stickers on stove knobs, and providing information in large print. Betty’s limited vision, however, has caused her anxiety and depression because of the fear that she would eventually go blind. The service coordinator recommended that Betty visit the Sight Center in Toledo, which she had resisted until another resident shared her positive experience. After Betty’s initial Sight Center appointment, she felt less anxious, because they better explained her eye condition to her and provided her with several resources to help with daily life. In addition, Betty will be getting more equipment delivered to her apartment that the Sight Center will then train her to use. The night after her visit, Betty could not sleep – not because of anxiety – but because of excitement.



GENACROSS AT HOME

After experiencing a fall in his assisted living apartment, “Frank” developed a wound that would not heal. While he was going to a wound care clinic, he was still having issues, so the clinic referred Frank to Genacross at Home for additional assistance with his wound care. A Genacross at Home nurse met with Frank and educated him on how to complete his dressing changes. Frank was still very overwhelmed with his care, so the Genacross at Home nurse consulted with the nursing staff at Frank’s assisted living. The nurses reassured Frank that they would work as a team to support him when the Genacross at Home nurse was not with him to answer questions or concerns. This teamwork approach helped reassure Frank about his wound care and his overall health situation, and he was successfully discharged from care after about 30 days with Genacross at Home.

FOUNDATION

Thank you to all the generous donors who made the first-ever Genacross Day of Giving a huge success. Because of the support of the matching gift sponsors, Plante Moran, RCO Law, and Terry L. Bossert, and the generosity of individual donors, the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation exceeded its fundraising goal of \$10,000 by 30 percent. Every donor made a difference. Gifts of financial support allow Genacross Lutheran Services to continue providing much needed services across generations in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. These services include youth group homes, mental health and education services, affordable housing for seniors, assisted living, memory support, and skilled nursing care. Donors give for a variety of reasons, and the Foundation will ensure that each donor’s intent is met and honored. Every donor has a story and a reason for supporting the mission of Genacross Lutheran Services, and we are grateful.