



GOD AT WORK IN OUR MIDST

Stories of the Called Ministries of
Genacross Lutheran Services

August 2022

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Frieda” turned 100 years old this summer during her sixth year of residency in the assisted living at the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. While she has dealt with the loss of many loved ones, her family extends across generations, and she proudly points out each photo on her apartment walls. Things take longer past 100. Walks to the dining hall, chapel, and the community puzzle table take more time. There is still so much that Frieda does for herself – a child of the Depression, she wouldn’t have it any other way. To support that, the Wolf Creek Campus’ customized assistance maintains her dignity and independence. Nurses administer and track her medications. Housekeepers clean her room. Aides provide gentle reminders of meal times, make her bed, and do her laundry. She still finds much joy each day. In neat binders, Frieda keeps carefully completed pages from adult coloring books – over 175. Every page is dated, starting in 2018. The dates between pages stretch out a bit more now, but she continues adding to the collection. Like most who reach triple-digits, Frieda is surprised by the milestone. However, she is happy, with much more joy than sorrow. Recently, she holds close the memories of her big 100th birthday: family, a steak dinner, and the recognition of the Wolf Creek community that has become her home.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Ella,” a resident of the Genacross Lutheran Services-Napoleon Campus, has the most amazing voice and always has a song in her heart and one at the piano keys. Recently, she shared with the Napoleon Campus’ new chaplain that she hoped to plant more seeds in the garden located in front of the chapel. The chaplain explained that it was not too late to plant and harvest cool season crops like broccoli and cabbage. Ella responded that she would love to have some fresh peas and cabbage from the garden, so the chaplain told her that he would look into it, but made no promises as most vegetable plants were gone from the stores. Later that day while visiting a local agribusiness, he asked about plant availability. He was told there were no plants, but there were some cabbage seeds that he could have. While he hoped Ella would not be too disappointed if they didn’t germinate, he decided to give them a try. When the seeds were presented to her, Ella was thrilled. She and some other residents are determined to plant their seeds indoors in cups before transplanting into the garden. To Ella, there is potential, hope, and finally life in the seeds. Staff members see it – potential, hope and life - every day in the people they have the privilege to serve at the Napoleon Campus.

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HOME & COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

During the month of July, an email was sent to the service coordinators at all the Genacross housing sites that a family in the community had an electric wheelchair that they wanted to donate to anyone who might have a need. The service coordinator from Luther Grove immediately thought of “June,” an 81-year-old resident who has been struggling to secure an electric wheelchair after hers was unrepairable. June is a double amputee who has been managing with a manual wheelchair for a few months and was in a holding pattern with her insurance company to get a new one. The service coordinator reached out to the family willing to gift the chair. The family not only donated the wheelchair to June, but also delivered it to her the next day. June could not believe the blessings that were bestowed on her by this donation. She was in tears, speechless at the gift she received. This was truly life changing for June. Working together as a team and sharing resources, the Genacross service coordinators are able to get needed items for their residents to improve their quality of life and help them to remain independent in their homes.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

When doing God’s work, the hope is that it spills over to inspire others to do the same. When a Family & Youth Services therapist signed up the twelve kids in her therapeutic behavioral group for water safety classes at a local business, she did not know how much the youth would benefit from it or how much the owners would embrace the opportunity. She worked hard to coordinate these classes into her therapy group, which included getting approvals from the guardians for all of the youth. Each Wednesday for five weeks, the youth received water safety classes as well as nutritional and health tips. The owners even bought all of the youth swim gear, including goggles and swim caps. The owners also saw potential in three of the girls and asked that they get additional swim lessons, if they were interested, to prepare them for competitive swim. On Sundays, two staff members came in on their day off to take the girls to these additional swim lessons. The youth enjoyed the classes and looked forward to Wednesday’s activity each week. It was an opportunity for the youth to learn discipline and to interact with adults outside of Family & Youth Services, which contributes to the normalcy that the Genacross program seeks to provide its youth in care.



GENACROSS AT HOME

“William” is over 100 years old and has been able to remain living at home. Recently, however, he experienced a fall in his home and developed edema on his legs while in a local rehab facility. When William was ready to discharge from the rehab facility, he chose to go home with Genacross at Home to continue his recovery. After providing therapy services and nursing care to him for a period of time, staff determined that he needed more care after he experienced another fall in his home and had to go into the hospital. The Genacross at Home nursing staff worked with William’s family, his primary care physician, and hospital staff to move William into an assisted living facility. He is now receiving the ongoing care and attention he needs to stay safe and independent as long as possible.

FOUNDATION

After a two-year hiatus because of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Genacross Lutheran Services Foundation reimagined its 2022 donor appreciation event as an elegant dessert reception held on a Sunday afternoon in July. The event occurred in the dining room at Creekside Condominiums on the Genacross Lutheran Services-Wolf Creek Campus. Guests grazed on a variety of desserts and appetizers, while listening to a string quartet from the Toledo School for the Arts. They also heard keynote speaker Carl Boyd, a 20-year resident of Creekside, share his powerful testimonial on the importance of donor support for the mission of Genacross to continue. Guests also had the opportunity to tour the Creekside property and fill up their gift bags with an assortment of Genacross branded items. Genacross is very grateful for all of the donors who support the organization’s mission and ministry.