



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

April 2011



On a daily basis, Lutheran Homes Society impacts hundreds of residents, clients and families. The stories shown here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Sharing these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's lives.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

When "Shirley" was admitted to the Lutheran Home at Toledo, her life seemed to be going nowhere. Shirley, who is very young compared to the "average age" resident, was suffering from morbid obesity, severe health issues, and unable to get out of bed without a special lifting device. Shirley was depressed and felt like giving up. The clinical team at Lutheran Home at Toledo helped Shirley regain the hope and promise of a new life. Over the course of a year, Shirley has managed to become independent with her transfers, is able to walk short distances with stand-by assistance, and has lost 100 pounds, which has enabled her to feel better and become more mobile. Shirley is a regular user of our "Nu-Step" exercise bike, which helps her with flexibility and stamina. As a result of Shirley's work, she is on the list to move into a LHS housing apartment sometime in April. The turnaround that Shirley experienced is simply miraculous, and we are humbled by the blessing God has bestowed on the team for helping to make Shirley's dream come true. With God, there is always hope.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

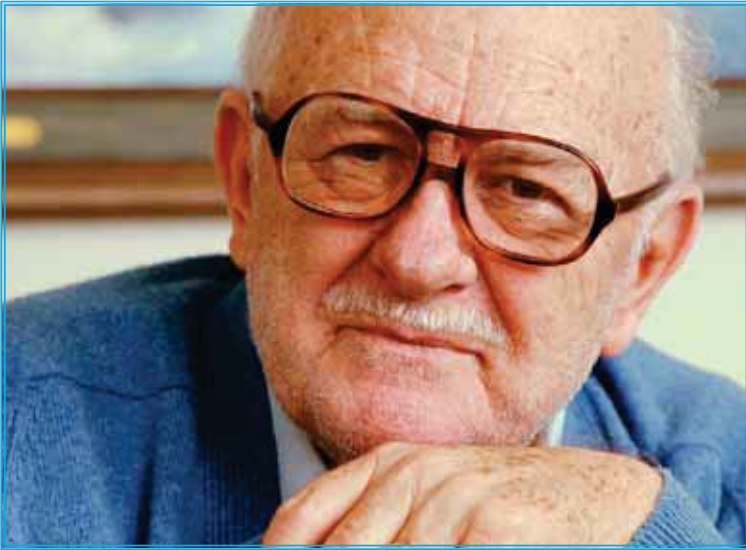
"John" has been on dialysis for about the last two years. His health has been declining, and he is quite debilitated due to his health conditions. During a recent apartment inspection, it was noted that his apartment was in disarray. The Service Coordinator recommended that he apply for PASSPORT services on several occasions and finally, after several meetings and conversations with John and his family, he agreed to apply for Medicaid and PASSPORT services. Fortunately, John was approved for both. Previously, John could not afford to have dental or vision services and had not had his eyes or teeth checked in quite some time. Now, with these assistance programs, John will be able to get the health and personal care services he needs.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Alicia" was admitted to the facility after she fell in her home. She had multiple injuries and was unsure if she would ever be able to return home. Despite these doubts, she made it her goal to return home. However, the progress was slow and Alicia began to doubt that she'd reach this goal. Her family even suggested that she consider assisted living because it seemed more realistic in meeting her needs. This depressed Alicia and she withdrew from other residents and staff. Realizing this, and seeing her potential, the staff spent extra time working with her. Our aides walked her every day, our new therapy staff worked to strengthen her, and this motivated Alicia. She soon realized that going home was a possibility, and she worked even harder. Over the next couple of weeks she made significant progress and finally was given the good news that she would be able to go home. She was thrilled. On the day that she was scheduled to leave, Alicia's family arrived to take her home. However, Alicia told them to wait. She proceeded to walk, without assistance, down the halls saying goodbye to all her friends. There seemed to be a hop in her step as she walked out of the facility on her way back home.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Dianna visited Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek in February looking for a place for her husband to get rehabilitation. Eugene was admitted in February, very disoriented and with a future that likely included long-term care after his rehabilitation. Dianna was very pleased with the care and attention that the Wolf Creek staff gave both her and Eugene after his arrival and often remarks that they cannot say enough about how wonderful the care and compassion has been for both of them. They discovered the ministry that encompasses Wolf Creek touches their lives in many ways. From the nurse aides and nurses who provide his direct care to the dietician and therapy staff, the care and compassion they both have received at Wolf Creek will eventually enable Eugene to return home when his wife is able to provide the care. Eugene, a WW II veteran, would like to go home someday, but for now he is comfortable with his care. Eugene and Dianna are grateful for the ministry at Wolf Creek, commenting that they feel like part of a family, “and that’s a great feeling!” Dianna says.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Dan” came to Lutheran Memorial Home with great hesitation. He only agreed to stay because his family gave up his apartment during his lengthy hospital stay, and he had no where else to go. His family left him and he found himself lonely, depressed, and weak. He felt a great amount of frustration as he discovered the amount of care that he now required and how significantly his life had changed from when he lived independently. Despite objection from Dan, the staff worked hard to involve him in activities, to encourage him to participate in therapy, and to connect him with other residents to form new friendships. Not only has Dan become much stronger and is now able to propel himself around the facility, but he also is the resident who now encourages other residents to come to activities and meals. Dan still is unable to live on his own. However, he makes it known on a regular basis that Lutheran Memorial Home is his new home, and he is happy to spend time enjoying life with his friends.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Anthony Wayne Home resident “Jessica” has participated in the Special Olympics basketball program for the past four years. On March 26, several staff and residents cheered Jessica and the Henry County Cougars as they won the women’s state basketball championship for the fourth year in a row. Jessica contributed 18 points, several rebounds, and some assists. It was heart-warming to watch this group of young women working together as a team, encouraging each other, and overcoming their personal obstacles. In addition to her winning ways in the state championship game, Jessica has proven to be a winner by helping other people with her basketball skills. She participated with another resident from the Anthony Wayne Home in a basketball “shoot-a-thon” to raise money for youth with disabilities. She was able to raise \$63 during one recent “shoot-a-thon.” The caring concern and careful treatment provided by LHS Family & Youth Services staff have helped Jessica and she, in turn, is using her winning ways to help other people.