



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

August 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.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

In 2008, "Harold" suffered heart problems and underwent open heart surgery. As his needs increased, it was getting more difficult for his wife, "Rita," to care for him at home. Two years later, Rita suffered a heart attack, and they could not take care of themselves anymore. Because they were so thrilled with the care and service Harold's mother had received years earlier at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek, they both moved into our long-term nursing care center.

Wolf Creek staff provided compassionate care to address their declining health issues and offered family support as Rita's dementia progressed. In addition to meeting their physical needs, Harold found comfort in the spiritual care that brought the peace and comfort of God back into his life. After years of having Harold and Rita as part of the Wolf Creek family, they will be starting a new chapter in their lives when they move in with their daughter. Harold commented how he will miss Wolf Creek. Harold bought himself a new car and plans on coming back for Sunday worship service with Chaplain Atkins, Monday cards, and chatting with the staff and residents. Although we're sad to see Harold and Rita leave our home, we feel so blessed to have helped both of them and Harold's mother during their times of need.



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"David" was an abused and neglected child, who struggled with relationships, lost his mother while he was still at home, and then went into foster care – all before the age of 10. He was later adopted. When David was first placed at the Wynn Treatment Facility at age 15, he was distant, resistant, and very aggressive physically and verbally. He rarely communicated about feelings or thoughts he had about anything taking place in his life. He struggled in school, would not follow the rules, hit staff, argued incessantly, and was defiant and angry. After several years in treatment, David began to "soften" a little. He became a little less angry. Staff at LHS Family & Youth Services provided structure and consistent support for David. Staff talked with David and he began to share more of his feelings and thoughts. Staff listened. Eventually David was able to transition into a less restrictive school and participated in a culinary arts program while still at Wynn Treatment Facility. He graduated from high school and returned to his hometown to live and work independently, yet close by to his family.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Virginia” was known by her daughter to love throwing a good party. Her daughter thought there would be no better way to honor her mother on her 99th birthday than to work with the activities department to throw her a birthday party for all to enjoy. They arranged for a church choir to perform and served delicious homemade cookies provided by her daughter. Virginia is limited in her communication abilities, but her face lit up when she was able to listen and enjoy the choir. Her daughter was very grateful to the activity staff and many volunteers who worked to make the party a reality. Lutheran Home at Napoleon staff members feel grateful to have loving family members of residents who wish to include everyone in milestone moments like this. It is another testimony to the integral part each of our staff members play in the lives of our residents and their families.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“James,” a LHS independent housing resident, brought a copy of his hospital bill to the Service Coordinator recently with questions about payment options. Once the coordinator read over the bill, it was determined that the hospital did not bill Medicaid for coverage of the services. With James permission, the coordinator contacted the hospital billing department to inform them of James’ additional insurance coverage. The hospital billing department reported they would bill Medicaid and instructed James to not make any payment. James was thrilled. He had never considered that the hospital would not have his correct insurance information. Through the efforts of the Service Coordinator, James saved over \$800.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

The past couple of months “Irene” has struggled with depression. She refused to leave her room, participate in activities, and often wouldn’t even eat. This was a change from months prior. In response, Lutheran Memorial Home staff made an extra effort to visit often, deliver her favorite foods, and get her the medication she needed. Recently, Irene mentioned that she wished that she was closer to the “action.” Immediately, the staff went to work, staying late to set up a room closer to the lobby. It made all the difference. When Irene found out that she was moving, she was thrilled. Since the move she is much more sociable and even participated in a discussion group. Irene says that she is much happier being able to see everything going on and appreciates everything that’s been done for her.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Frank” and “Jean” have been happily married for 55 years. However, Frank had to make the difficult decision to place his beloved wife into the nursing care center at Lutheran Home at Toledo. Jean is a very proud woman and felt she has become a burden to her husband and her family. When her husband wished to take her out to eat at a local restaurant, Jean refused because it was too much bother. However, with the new transportation service offered by Lutheran Homes Society, we were able to transport Jean to the restaurant one warm summer evening. Jean had a wonderful time with her husband and friends she hadn’t seen in a long time. This new service offered to LHS residents is a fine example of how the little things in ministry can enhance the quality of one’s life. Instead of feeling like a burden, Jean feels a part of the community despite the fact that her health requires her to stay at the care center.