



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

December 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.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

Lutheran Memorial Home received a frantic phone call from "Ralph's" wife. She had been trying for a week to get her husband admitted into a facility in the Sandusky area. Three facilities had accepted him, but later declined due to his condition. After his wife toured our campus, Ralph was admitted a day later. He had been in bed for three weeks and was told by the hospital he would remain there due to his condition. Our therapy department got Ralph out of bed and into a chair in his room the day he was admitted. Ralph and his wife cried because they could not believe he was up. He was so excited by this that he had his family bring his electric scooter to the facility. Ralph is doing well with his therapy and has recommended the facility to several members of his congregation. In addition, Ralph's mother-in-law is in the process of transferring to Lutheran Memorial Home!

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Jacob" came to LHS Family & Youth Services from a locked psychiatric setting with a history of anger, aggression, poor choices and negative family relationships. He was placed at the Oregon Treatment Facility, where he learned to manage his anger, build positive relationships and make good choices. Jacob was transitioned to the Anthony Wayne Home, where he continued his appropriate choices and behaviors. He gained trust and respect from staff at both settings due to his continual improvement.

LHS Family & Youth staff made certain Jacob had consistent contact with his mother and younger brother. Jacob and his mother participated in Partners in Treatment weekends once each month. They learned to communicate more effectively with each other and discovered coping skills together. Jacob built a stronger relationship with his mom and engaged very easily in discussions and activities with both her and his brother. Staff would transport Jacob to his mother for weekend visitation and also would bring her to Partners in Treatment weekends. Recently, Jacob was reunited with his family. He has a renewed ability to cope with anger. He exercises routinely now, stays free from peer negativity, and continues in therapy while enjoying his family life. While at LHS Family & Youth, Jacob did well academically and now only needs six credits to graduate from high school.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Jeremiah" was living in some unfavorable conditions before moving to a LHS housing site. He had to move without taking along such belongings as cooking equipment, toiletries, paper products, and food. Due to the expense of moving, Jeremiah did not have any money left to purchase these items. The Service Coordinator met with Jeremiah and offered assistance. She was able to obtain many supplies for him through the LHS Personal Care Pantry. During the week he moved in, the coordinator also provided Jeremiah with a couple of pans, some food, and other items that she obtained from another pantry program. Jeremiah was so grateful for this assistance, which allowed him to make a new start in his new home.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

Recently, staff at the care center assisted with a 100th birthday celebration for “Louise,” who came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon five years ago. As part of the celebration, staff helped make this a memorable event by decorating the room, providing hot chocolate, and making sure additional supplies were available if the family needed them. The family was overwhelmed to see how special their aunt looked for her big day, especially commenting on her hair and makeup. The staff also took the time to sign and present Louise with a birthday card, which left the family speechless. A couple of days after the event, the family sent a card to the facility praising our staff for their warm hospitality. They said kindness such as this gives them peace of mind that their aunt is in the right place for her care. The family was very grateful for the added touches that staff provided to make Louise’s 100th birthday so special.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Anticipating major surgery and knowing that rehab would be necessary, “Mary” “carefully researched many skilled nursing rehab facilities.” She came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek and later wrote this note of appreciation to staff for their help:

“I was barely ambulatory and in extreme pain upon entering LVWC after undergoing a major surgery. My pain and anxiety were eased by a warm welcome from staff and a lovely room looking out to the beautiful fall colors surrounding the facility. From that moment on, each and every one of my needs was quickly, kindly and efficiently tended to. My nurse made sure the pain was controlled, so I was able to function well and take both therapies (physical and occupational). All my meds were delivered by professional and caring nursing staff. Each and every nurse, therapist, LPN, tech, even the housekeepers, were absolutely outstanding – meeting every request at any time of the day or night. I also was impressed by the facility chaplain who made a personal visit to my room. Not only did he provide me with spiritual care, he stayed and talked in my room, and we had a very nice visit. I think the warm, friendly visits from everyone – from my caregivers to the management staff – are what really impressed me. The staff truly cared about making my stay a pleasant one. Those two weeks at LVWC were the best thing I ever did for myself and my family. Therapy staff made it possible for me to function on my own and regain my independence. This was the perfect place to recover from my surgery and for whatever other difficulties I may encounter in the future – Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek is the way to go!”



TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Vera” readily admits that she can be a “difficult patient.” When she arrived at Lutheran Home at Toledo, Vera made it hard for the clinical staff to carry out her treatment plan by refusing medications and therapy. Vera also admits that she has had problems trusting people her entire life. It would have been very easy for the staff to “label” Vera as “difficult” and write her off. However, that did not happen. With patience and compassion, the staff was successful in forming a relationship with Vera that resulted in trust – giving the staff the ability to carry out the treatment plan. As a result, Vera successfully completed her therapy and was discharged to her home. As a testament to this positive relationship, Vera came back to the Toledo campus for another in-patient stay. She knew her connection with the staff would lead her back to independence, which again was the achieved outcome.