



# God at Work in Our Midst

## Lutheran Homes Society

February 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.

### NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Annie's" children were trying their hardest to care for their mom at home. She had been diagnosed with lung cancer and had a limited amount of time to live. Hospice services were brought in to care for Annie alongside her children. Unfortunately, despite the children's best effort, they were unable to provide the necessary care at home. Hospice told Annie's children about Inpatient Hospice that could be provided at Lutheran Home at Napoleon. While they felt guilty about not being able to care for their mom, they were relieved that there was a facility close to their home that would work with the same hospice caregivers they already knew. Upon arrival, the family was pleased with the efforts of the Napoleon Home staff. Annie's daughter said that she was particularly impressed when our staff provided their mom with Kentucky Fried Chicken for lunch one day. Her mom had mentioned to the staff the day before that this was her favorite meal, and the staff made a special effort to surprise her. Annie's daughter has been amazed by the warm and caring attitudes of our staff shown to her mom. It has made Annie's last days happier and more comfortable.

### TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Tom" came to Lutheran Home at Toledo after a recent leg amputation. Because Tom is younger than most residents, it was a priority for the team to enable Tom to return home. However, there were many issues beyond his physical rehabilitation. The team worked closely with Tom's housing service coordinator. While a resident with us, our team moved his possessions from a standard apartment to a handicapped-accessible one, applied for and received approval from Medicaid, arranged for a new primary care physician, and got Tom a power wheelchair. With this type of teamwork and the care he received at the Toledo Home, Tom completed his therapy and successfully transitioned to his home.



### WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Sarah" has lived at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek for almost one year. Prior to coming to our facility, she was living at home alone. After she was hospitalized and ultimately had a leg amputation, Sarah's family had to make the decision that she would require long-term care. As a result, Sarah came to live at Wolf Creek. She relies on staff to propel her wheelchair around the facility, to assist her with meals, and to encourage her to be involved in daily activities. Sarah loves going to the dining room to eat because she feels like she is in a restaurant. One of her favorite things to do with her daughter is to go to the ice cream parlor and eat ice cream together. She is very attached to the staff and grateful they are there to help her. Wolf Creek is now home to Sarah, and she is happy to be here.

## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Myra”, who is in her 90s, has remained quite independent until recently, due to a few setbacks. She is beginning to experience difficulties with vision, hearing, and ambulating. Regardless of the changes, she always has a smile on her face and a joke to share. She has expressed the importance of how many friends she has and the fellow residents who look out for her at her LHS apartment community. Due to the changes she is experiencing, she is now living a self-reliant lifestyle with services. Home health care and nursing services have been arranged through the Service Coordinator. Additionally, she is receiving special services through the local Sight Center. Myra is now wearing hearing aids regularly, so she can hear and understand conversations with her friends. Myra has commented that she needs additional help with her mail and bills since her family members are coping with their own health issues and are unavailable to assist her. The Service Coordinator also is assisting in making arrangements for Myra to have help with her correspondence. Myra feels comfortable receiving help through the LHS service coordination program. She commented that she feels she is having her needs met as she ages gracefully.

## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Sean” was a resident at the Oregon Treatment Facility for three years. He was placed with LHS Family & Youth Services as a result of abuse and neglect. He and his siblings were removed from his parents due to drug use. He was placed in foster care and was sexually abused by a foster father. When Sean came to Oregon Treatment Facility, he suffered from mood instability, post traumatic stress disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and anger issues. He struggled with being able to trust adults and peers and was not able to form meaningful relationships.

Yet, Sean was an intelligent young man who loved school. He thrived at school and developed excellent reading habits. Sean loved to read. Caregivers at the Oregon Facility built on Sean’s strengths and helped him work through his anger issues. He slowly began to form and maintain meaningful relationships and to trust others.

He had not seen or talked with his father for seven years, but caregivers helped reunite him with his father. Sean and his father began attending Partners in Treatment family weekends, a program to help families learn necessary skills for healthy relationships. After several years of treatment, Sean moved into his father’s home and rejoined a family that also included his stepmother, his brother and other stepsiblings. Today, Sean has two children of his own. He serves in the United States Army as a sergeant and is currently stationed in Iraq.



## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Rachel” was depressed when she came to Lutheran Memorial Home (LMH) because she was unable to bear any weight due to a fracture. She could barely get out of bed. She wanted to go home, but her house was unsafe and her inability to walk up steps prevented her from doing so. Rachel now feels at home at LMH. She interacts with other residents and staff on a daily basis and participates in all of the activities. Completing her therapy is the highlight of her day, because she is making such significant progress. After a lot of hard work, Rachel is now able to walk and has accomplished nearly all of her rehabilitation goals. Staff members are working with Rachel and her family to ensure that she has all of the equipment and services needed to make her comfortable when she returns home. However, Rachel is now unsure if she even wants to leave her new family at Lutheran Memorial Home!