



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

February 2012



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.

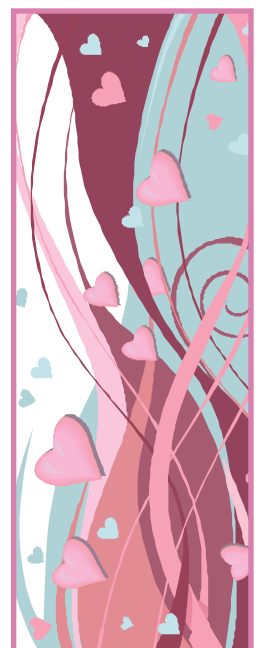
NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Rich” came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon to receive assistance after complications resulting from his dialysis and diabetes. He was frustrated with his current situation, as it was hard for him to accept that he had to come to a “nursing home.” In fact, Rich only agreed to come to the facility after “Jim,” a gentleman with whom he talks at dialysis, expressed how much he had enjoyed the facility. Rich’s wife was so impressed by Jim’s comments that she immediately chose Lutheran Home at Napoleon when asked by the hospital to make a decision. They were not disappointed. Staff made every effort to make Rich feel at home. He worked diligently with the physical and occupational therapists to get stronger and quickly met his goal. Rich recently went home, but he is very grateful to all of the staff and to Jim, who helped him make the right choice in coming to the Napoleon campus.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Betsy” came to Oregon Treatment Facility after failed placements in 14 foster homes and three residential facilities. She attempted to fail again by purposely doing things to push away the front-line child and youth care professionals working with her, but she found out that LHS Family & Youth Services staff cared for her despite her obstinate and repulsive behaviors. Staff continued to provide Betsy with compassionate care and effective treatment. She slowly learned to trust staff and began to respond to the structured environment they helped provide. She began to make changes. She was a little less obstinate and a lot less angry. She no longer pushed people away from herself, and she began to participate in a biweekly bible study.

After three years at Oregon Treatment Facility, Betsy graduated from high school. She moved to a group setting near her home county. She has been at her adult placement for four years now and is enjoying new opportunities in her community. She is learning to work, cook, and care for herself and others in a functional manner. With staff encouraging and helping her, she has gone on a couple of dates. Her county caseworker indicates that Betsy is very happy and enjoys where she lives now. Her caseworker attributes Betsy’s happiness to the “superior care” she received while at the Oregon Treatment Facility. The staff never gave up on her and always treated her needs appropriately. Through Family & Youth Services, her many years of failure ended, and she felt success for the first time. Betsy continues to build on that success today.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Howard” came to Lutheran Memorial Home as a very weak and confused man with many ailments. After having been hospitalized for weeks, he was well enough to be discharged to a skilled nursing facility. His family was very anxious to get him into a facility and get him better, but unfortunately he was denied admission by multiple providers due to his behaviors. Hearing of his difficulty in finding placement, the Sandusky campus’ admissions/marketing coordinator went out to assess him and determined that he should be admitted. After all, everyone deserves a home. The next day he was admitted to the rehab unit and was very appreciative that we were willing to help him. The staff worked diligently with Howard, and he thrived under our care. Recently, Howard walked out of the facility with his walker to return home. It was the first time in a long while that he was able to walk. As he said goodbye, he had the biggest grin on his face and thanked the staff for giving him a chance.



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Henry” came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek as an assisted living resident in October 2010. His health declined, however, and he became very weak after several hospital stays. Henry was also confused, which made meeting his needs on his own a real challenge. He returned to the Wolf Creek campus needing support in all aspects of his life. Henry was admitted to the nursing center for rehabilitation and care. His confusion and weakness continued, but so did the staff’s commitment to his recovery. With the assistance of therapy, nursing, and the other disciplines at Wolf Creek, he has returned to his alert, oriented, and pleasant self. Henry has also regained the ability to care for himself, and discussions are underway about his moving back to an assisted living apartment.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Max” was a hard worker his entire life and was proud that “he never missed a day of work.” Unfortunately, Max began to experience debilitating arthritis during his retirement. He always found himself in a great deal of pain, which limited his ability to do things he like to do. From a lack of activity, his health began to fail. Following a hospital stay, Max came to Lutheran Home at Toledo for rehabilitation. The therapy and nursing teams, along with his physician, were successful in treating Max. They properly managed his pain, strengthened his body, and made him mobile. After three weeks, Max went home feeling better and excited about his improved independence.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Georgia” came to her Service Coordinator’s office with mail from the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) that she did not understand. After reviewing the letter, the Service Coordinator explained that apparently she had money in an OPERS fund. With Georgia’s permission, the Service Coordinator contacted OPERS to inquire about this fund. According to OPERS, Georgia had money in the account because she had completed a routine physical in 2010, and each time she would get a physical (one per year) she would accrue \$50. This was an incentive program to encourage beneficiaries to take care of their health. OPERS also explained that she could accrue up to \$100 per year under certain circumstances. Georgia could use the accrued money toward out-of-pocket medical expenses, including prescriptions. The Service Coordinator assisted Georgia in completing the claim form for her money. Georgia is thrilled that she learned of this fund and plans to take advantage of it in 2012.