



# God at Work in Our Midst

## Lutheran Homes Society

January 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

"Anna" could not imagine her life in a nursing home and her husband was uncertain as well. She came to Lutheran Memorial Home disoriented and depressed after multiple falls, and her husband was questioning whether she should be placed in a locked unit. She clearly did not want to be in the facility, but her husband could no longer care for her. Within a short time Anna was participating in therapy, attending activities, and responding to the care and compassion she was being provided. She has made great progress in all areas. Her husband visits her every day and has even started volunteering at the facility. They continue to attend all of the activities, but bingo is their favorite. Both Anna and her husband have accepted, with great appreciation, that Lutheran Memorial Home is her new home.

### WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

"Miriam," 100 years young, recently came to LVWC for a short-term rehabilitation stay during the Christmas holiday season. As she was not able to leave the facility to celebrate the holiday at home, our dietary staff brought Christmas cheer to Miriam and her family. A Santa (the son of one of our residents) even made a surprise visit. The family was grateful and complimented our dietary staff for their pleasant and attentive services, as well as the great food, including special frosted cookies. There were four generations of family present to enjoy this special time together.



### HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Ethel" appeared to be experiencing exploitation by a neighbor and the neighbor's grandson. She is 87 years old and frail. According to a home health aide, the neighbor's grandson was taking Ethel's food, prescriptions and car. He would stay overnight and sleep in her bed, forcing Ethel to sleep on the sofa. Ethel's health was failing, because she was not taking her medicine as prescribed. The LHS Service Coordinator made a report to both the property management and Adult Protective Services, which is now providing protective services for Ethel.

"Jenny's" vision was deteriorating, and her apartment offered poor lighting because of a line of pine trees outside her apartment window. She depended heavily on a walker, didn't participate in activities, and had a history of falling. After speaking with the manager, we moved Jenny to an apartment where the light was much better. She is now participating in activities, her legs are strengthening, and she is using her walker less often.

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

It is a tradition at Lutheran Home at Toledo to have a “Giving Tree.” The tree is set up for staff to choose resident names and purchase the resident a nominal gift. Many times, this is the only gift a resident without an immediate family receives. God’s presence is often shown through subtle and seemingly insignificant ways. Resident “Harriet” received a coffee cup with a box of Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate. Harriet is at the Toledo Home for rehabilitation and things haven’t been going as well as she had hoped. In fact, one can say that Harriet had the Christmas blues. However, getting her cup and Swiss Miss brightened her outlook. She said that our hot chocolate is pretty good, but nothing is as good as Swiss Miss, in her opinion. In fact, she was suspicious that the staff person had consulted her son in advance. When Harriet learned that the son was not called, she concluded that God brought her that little joy at Christmas time to brighten her spirits and renew her determination in therapy.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

One of the highlights of the Christmas season is our annual Family Christmas Party. There is music and refreshments, but the highlight is always the visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus. This year, as each resident was individually greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Claus, they were handed two gifts. One gift was provided by the family of each resident and another provided by a staff member. This came as a surprise to families who weren’t aware that a “Secret Santa” would have a second gift for their loved ones. Many commented on how nice this was. However, one resident in particular, “Mark,” was taken by surprise when both gifts were given to him. He was amazed that a staff member would take it upon themselves to share the Christmas spirit with him. His daughters were thrilled. They were pleased by their dad’s smile and the gratitude their father expressed. It had been a tough decision to have their dad come to a nursing facility, and they were able to see first-hand that their father’s transition to the nursing home was a positive, comforting experience for him. The daughters were very appreciative of the staff taking time to make their father feel valued. Weeks later, Mark is still talking about how nice it was that our staff went out of the way to make him feel like family.



## FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Ann” came to Family and Youth in 2005 and left us to go to an adult facility. Her child advocate from her home county wrote the following:

*“I would like to follow up on the Satisfaction Survey sent to me. I have worked with Ann for the last three years. She was placed at the Anthony Wayne Group Home during that time frame. I was so impressed with all of the services that Ann was afforded while living in this LHS residential program. I had the opportunity to work closely with Bob, Linda, Mary Ann and Brenda. The staffing and programming at this home was always strong and nurturing in my opinion. I believe for Ann (and other residents) the consistency in parenting was critical for continued growth. The team approach with school staff and therapeutic staff was also a key component of her maturing into a young lady that can reside with other residents in an adult group home. Ann is a happy young lady and was encouraged and provided many social opportunities and the ability to participate in activities that interested her. Though Ann will always need supervision and assistance, she has learned many skills that make her as independent and self-sufficient as I could have hoped for when I first began working with her. Thanks to all the staff that were involved with Ann over the years.”*