



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

January 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.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Luke's" family was very concerned about their father. They had been noticing that he was not taking care of himself at home, and they received reports that Luke was wandering about in the neighborhood. Luke's daughter long suspected that her dad had dementia, but Luke compensated well for his cognitive deficits. One day Luke fell and was injured while wandering the neighborhood. Following a hospital stay, the family brought him to Lutheran Home at Toledo. Once Luke settled into his new environment, he seemed to prosper. Luke feels happy and secure, and frequently participates in facility activities. In fact, Luke likes to help staff with such jobs as handing out shirt protectors in the dining room. Luke's story shows how the LHS value of Wholeness of Life is demonstrated despite Luke's moderate dementia.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

Last March, "Tom" thought he was experiencing signs of a stroke – lightheadedness, dizziness, etc. He was rushed to the emergency room for tests; only to be diagnosed with two serious health conditions that needed separate surgeries. Tom, his wife, and his children were devastated. He did not know what to do or whom to turn to for support. Tom had both surgeries within a month's time, and, thankfully, they were successful. However, he was very weak from being bedridden for over a month. Tom could hardly stand and couldn't walk. After checking out various rehabilitation facilities in the Toledo area, Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek was Tom's first choice. "What a good decision that was," Tom said. "Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek was everything I needed. From the personal care from all the staff, to the dining experience, the multitude of daily activities in and out of the facility, chapel services, and the expertise of the therapists, Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek has been the best decision I have made. The staff here made me walk again!" Tom was able to go home in mid May.

Unfortunately, Tom experienced a number of falls at home. He went back to the hospital, and they recommended more rehab for his falls. Having had such a pleasant experience at Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek the first time, Tom said, "There was no question in my mind as to where I wanted to go for additional rehab. So once again, Lutheran Village came to my rescue. As I sit in my bed in rehab, thinking that Christmas is only a week and a half away, I realize how thankful I am for this gift of life, how thankful I am for Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek, and how thankful I am that I was told I am cancer free. I feel that I couldn't have asked for a better Christmas present!"

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Paula” was admitted to Lutheran Memorial Home seven years ago after having a debilitating stroke that left her husband unable to take care of her. As a Jehovah Witness and not of the Lutheran faith, Paula was a little apprehensive about moving into the facility. When touring the facility, she was told that she did not have to be a Lutheran to be a resident and decided to move in. A year later, Paula’s husband, who was neither Lutheran nor Jehovah Witness, was admitted. Paula states that the facility has always treated her and her husband with respect. She has never felt out of place at the facility. Recently, her husband passed away, and Paula has expressed her appreciation for everything that we have done for their family. She said the Chaplain’s weekly visits are extremely meaningful, especially since her husband’s death. Paula feels that we are fulfilling our mission statement, and she plans to spend many more wonderful days here at Lutheran Memorial Home.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Norma” moved into an LHS housing site fairly recently and her only phone service was with a cell phone company. The cell phone service was only usable when she would drive out of town. She reported this to the Service Coordinator, who helped Norma research other options. Since Norma had low income and resided in subsidized housing, she qualified for a government cell phone program. Through this program, Norma would receive 250 minutes a month, which would roll over each month if not used. As a result, Norma terminated her other cell phone service, enrolled in the government program, and will save about \$35 per month. She can use her cell phone in her home now, and any unused minutes carry over to the next month.



FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Lori” was administratively discharged from three previous residential placements prior to coming to the Wynn Treatment Facility through LHS Family & Youth Services. She was depressed and could become violent. Social workers involved in her life had become disillusioned with Lori’s potential for positive change, but the Family & Youth caregivers saw the potential. They were faithful in creating and following a plan to provide Lori with the consistent structure and effective therapy needed to stimulate positive change. They were able to get Lori’s family engaged in the process through Partners in Treatment, a weekend program for families of youth in care. Her mother attended the monthly Partners in Treatment sessions. She came to understand her daughter’s struggles and learned new skills to work more effectively with her daughter. Today Lori is at home without incidents of violence. She is attending school and getting along with peers and family members. She still struggles with depression, but she is learning to manage it with the help of continued therapy.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Alfred,” an active community leader, came to Lutheran Home at Napoleon after a debilitating stroke. It left him weakened on one side, with difficulty in the ability to feed, dress, and bathe. He began his stay entirely dependent on staff for walking, grooming, and eating. His family was not sure if he would be able to return home. Alfred began physical, occupational and speech therapy, which in a few short weeks helped him increase his strength and mobility. Alfred wanted to prove to his family that he could get better and return home. After a month of intense therapy, a visit was made to his home to demonstrate how he would adapt and what changes would need to be made (such as adding grab bars in the bathroom) to ensure he would be able to function upon his discharge. It was the first time since his stroke three months prior that he had seen his home. After this visit, it was difficult for him to return to the facility, but he knew he was not quite ready. The home visit motivated Alfred to continue his therapy program. He returned for three additional weeks of therapy, achieving his “home for Christmas” goal.