



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

June 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.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Bud" and "Barbara" have lived in the same small northwestern Ohio town for much of their 61 years of marriage. Over the past number of years, it was becoming clearer to Barbara and her children that Bud was beginning to suffer the effects of early to moderate dementia. He had become difficult to care for him at home. In fact, Barbara relayed a story where Bud was convinced that it was Sunday and wandered out of the house and walked to the church. The church's office staff called Barbara and told her that Bud was there and safe. Barbara also was facing some health issues of her own. She needed a heart catheterization and was afraid that she may too weak to look after Bud. However, she did not feel that Bud was ready for a nursing home. Subsequently, Bud and Barbara moved into a Lutheran Home at Toledo assisted living apartment. Barbara found the perfect combination of independence for her, as well as the supervision and assistance Bud required. Her health has improved and both have settled in well. For the future, Barbara isn't sure if she is going back to her home in the small town. With Bud being taken care of and the pressure of keeping a house up relieved, Barbara feels she just might stay. Either way, the professionals at the Toledo Home will accommodate her changing needs.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Jacob" was unable to administer insulin injections as his doctor recommended due to other health conditions. After two hospitalizations from complications of diabetes, Jacob and his family requested assistance from the Service Coordinator at his LHS housing site. The coordinator discussed service options with Jacob and helped complete an application to the Area Office on Aging's PASSPORT Waiver Program. Jacob was assessed in early May and is now receiving services through this program. He receives daily nursing assistance with his insulin injections, in addition to ongoing monitoring, and a case manager works on preventative measures through patient education; all allowing him to remain in our independent living housing.



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

"Roy" was admitted to the facility for skilled care with the hopes that he would be able to return home with his wife. However, as his health declined, it soon became clear that he would never be able to go home. While the family was disappointed, they were comforted that he was receiving such loving care and that his wife no longer had to deal with the stress of caring for him 24 hours a day. Roy's family would come in nightly to eat dinner and visit. To them, our staff was family. Unfortunately, Roy recently passed away. The family thanked the staff for making his last days comfortable and for everything that they had done. On the day of the funeral visitation, the family was surprised to see several staff members in the doorway of the funeral home. Knowing that this was a difficult time, they were there to donate food and beverages to the family. Roy's family was shocked and touched by this effort. They thanked our staff and said the extra support and care really helped them get through the difficult time. They really appreciated everyone's thoughtfulness and said that the gesture was something they never would forget.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Diane” contacted our RN Case Manager in a panic and stated that she needed help regarding her husband “Charles.” She was confused about the process and upset with his current placement. Diane felt that she was being faced with one barrier after another and didn’t understand how to proceed. The team spent a significant amount of time listening to Diane and explaining the process in a way that put her mind at ease. Diane said after speaking with our RN Case Manager that the only place she wanted her husband was at Lutheran Memorial Home. The team helped Diane through every step and admitted Charles despite many barriers. He came to the Sandusky Home agitated and stressed. Within a short time, however they were both happy and relieved that our team was able to assist them during such a difficult time. After receiving extensive therapy, Charles was able to return home. Prior to leaving, Diane thanked the team for all of their help and the care and compassion that was shown to both of them. The RN Case Manager explained that we were just doing our job and Diane said, “You all do it very well and went above and beyond for us when no one else would.”

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

“Rachel” was placed through LHS Family & Youth Services at the Oregon Treatment Facility when she was 14 years old. She came from a family that abused and neglected her, and she was often left alone at age 4 to parent her younger siblings. She was removed from her parents due to the neglect and abuse and was placed in numerous foster homes and treatment facilities. When she arrived at our Oregon home, she was very dependent upon others and extremely oppositional toward caretakers. She would purposely do things to push people away. Meeting her needs was always a challenge due to her obstinate and often repulsive behaviors. But front line LHS staff did not allow themselves to be pushed away by Rachel and gently helped her find appropriate ways to express her feelings. After four years of intense treatment and programming designed to meet her individual needs, Rachel graduated from high school. She transitioned from the Oregon home to an adult setting where she has been for three years now. Rachel is thriving. She is involved in small ways in her community and is learning more fully to cook and care for herself. She is learning about the world of work and, with support from staff, has gone on a few dates. The caseworker from Rachel’s original placing agency tells LHS Family & Youth staff that Rachel is extremely happy with her life and loves where she lives. Her caseworker attributes Rachel’s success to the “superior” care she received while at the Oregon facility, saying that “LHS never gave up on Rachel and always treated her needs appropriately.”



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Mary” moved from her home in Florida back to Toledo to be closer to family. When her daughter was looking at assisted living facilities in the area, she knew from the first time she visited Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek that it was “home.” With the help of Wolf Creek’s competent and friendly staff, Mary’s daughter said the move from Florida to Toledo was seamless. Mary came to Wolf Creek pretty independent, needing little care from the staff. She enjoyed being amongst the other residents and not having to care for a house. She was very social and loved all the available activities. She especially enjoyed the summer days spent relaxing in the rocking chairs outside the assisted living entrance. Unfortunately, Mary’s health declined and she needed more care. Mary’s daughter commented that the staff’s prompt attention to her mom’s increasing needs brought her much comfort. Her daughter expressed gratitude to the nurses and all the staff for their help, love and compassion. “Your wonderful, caring staff checks on me just as much as they do my mom – knowing that I am tired and emotionally challenged. Some would say it’s above and beyond, but to me, it’s the staff that works here. It is who they are. They have tender hearts and continually give of themselves. They give mom comfort which, in turn, gives me peace of mind.”