



# God at Work in Our Midst

## Lutheran Homes Society

March 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

"Judy" was admitted to our facility after being in the hospital for a lengthy stay. She came to us with a goal of returning home, but quickly realized that this was not going to be possible. Judy was disappointed, but decided to make the best of the situation and explore other options. She requested a tour of Alpine Village assisted living and fell in love. Moving there was instantly her new goal, and she worked hard each and every day to meet that goal. With the help of nursing and therapy staff, she made daily progress and soon was able to move into assisted living. When she was notified that she would be able to move into her new home ahead of schedule, she beamed with pride. Her eyes sparkled with joy as she was handed the keys to her new home. She is grateful for all of the assistance that our staff gave her as she worked to meet her goal. She loves it at Alpine Village and continues to thrive. Lutheran Home at Napoleon was blessed to be part of the story of her success and our faithfulness.



### FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Mary" came to LHS Family & Youth Services when she was 9 years old and spent five years in care and treatment at the Oregon Treatment Facility. She returned when she was 17 years old for several years. Mary was always angry about something. She would run away, assault staff, and steal something almost every day. She hoarded food. Caregivers were patient and caring with Mary. They nurtured her and helped her learn to manage her anger better: a little more coping, a little less assaulting. Today, she lives in another state but keeps in contact with staff. As time has gone by, she regrets how she treated other people while in care and has apologized for her behavior. Mary is not without interpersonal struggles, but she is employed and raising her five-year-old son to the best of her abilities. She recently moved into a new home with her husband and son. Mary fondly recalls how well she was treated at the Oregon Facility and says she will always miss the Christmas traditions there.



### HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

"Margie" needed help with fixing her "rollator" (a walker with wheels), and went to the Service Coordinator for assistance. The rollator clearly needed repair, and our Service Coordinator found a local company that handles durable medical equipment. Unfortunately, the company determined they were unable to repair it. The company recommended that Margie purchase a new rollator and suggested one in stock for \$199. As she has limited income, Margie was concerned that she could not afford the purchase. The Service Coordinator did some additional research online and found a similar rollator for less than half the cost of the company's quote. While assisting Margie in making the online purchase, it was discovered that the company only accepted credit cards. Margie does not have a credit card, so the coordinator contacted the company and got them to agree to accept a money order due to the circumstances. The rollator was delivered within seven business days. Margie expressed her gratitude for the Service Coordinator's assistance. The cost of this rollator was only \$74 - saving Margie money and expediting the needed equipment to assist her mobility.

## TOLEDO CAMPUS

“Bob” and “Georgia” lived independently in their home in West Toledo. Georgia was having difficulty with advancing dementia that required Bob to tend to his wife’s needs. Then Bob got sick and needed surgery. Their children were unable to tend to Georgia around the clock due to their busy work schedules. Bob was very concerned about what was going to happen to Georgia while he was recuperating. They then discovered Lutheran Home at Toledo. While Bob was in the hospital, the Toledo Home admitted Georgia as a respite resident. When Bob was discharged from the hospital, he came to the Home and shared a room with his wife while receiving skilled rehabilitation and nursing care. Lutheran Home at Toledo filled a dual need for the family by providing care and oversight for Georgia and rehab for Bob. Bob and the children were very relieved. After completing his therapy and recuperation, Bob and Georgia returned home together.

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Derek” was diagnosed at the early age of 60 with lung cancer. In December 2010, he was admitted to the hospital with seizures. After careful examination, Derek was informed his cancer had metastasized to his brain. However, he wasn’t going to let this diagnosis bring him down. Derek wanted to battle the cancer by any means, even though the physicians gave him a very poor prognosis. His young wife was so desperate for him, she met with our staff and explained Derek’s wishes for muscle strengthening and to be able to return home. Their medical professionals were only offering the option for hospice. The staff at Lutheran Village of Wolf Creek took on this challenge with Derek.

Our case manager worked with his insurance company to gain rehabilitation time. This process was long and tenuous but it was a success. When Derek arrived at our facility, he worked hard with the therapists, giving it his all to regain his strength. It was a struggle with the insurance company, earning just days at a time for rehabilitation. After three weeks, Derek’s body could no longer tolerate the intense rehabilitation schedule. In the final analysis, Wolf Creek gave Derek the opportunity he wanted - hope and a chance to fight and to live on his own terms.



## SANDUSKY CAMPUS

In December, Lutheran Memorial Home in Sandusky received a referral from a home health agency for a patient who, due to his poor physical condition, was unable to remain at home. “Fred” had already been in another skilled facility for two weeks after his initial hospital stay. Due to his high acuity and insurance concerns, Fred’s wife and the home health agency were having a difficult time finding a facility to care for him. We admitted Fred and worked with the family and insurance company to address their concerns.

After being told by another facility that the insurance company would not cover his stay, Fred’s wife was pleased and relieved that each week the team at Lutheran Memorial Home was able to obtain approval for his stay to be covered. She was even more satisfied with the improvement in Fred’s health condition. Fred came to the Sandusky Home as a new dialysis patient and amputee, who was recovering from an emergency open heart surgery. After several months, Fred was discharged home in stable condition and walking with his new prosthetic leg. Fred and his family stated throughout his stay that they were amazed at the care, compassion, and service that they received from admission to discharge. Fred’s wife said that the Home’s staff made it so she could sleep at night.