



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

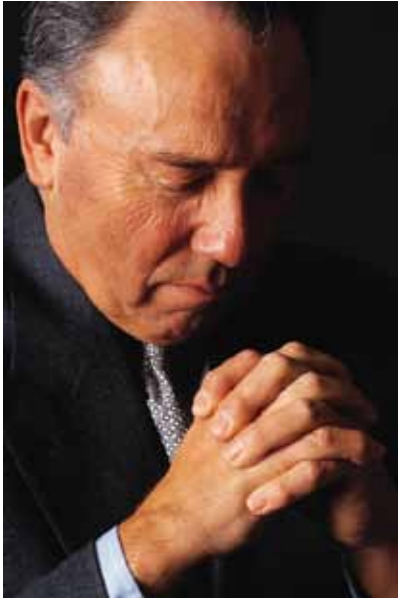
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On a daily basis, by the empowering of the Holy Spirit, Lutheran Homes Society impacts hundreds of residents, clients and families. The stories shown here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Sharing these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's lives.

TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Delores" and "Jim" have been married for over 60 years and have three successful children, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Jim came to Lutheran Home at Toledo a little over two years ago, suffering from multiple system failures caused by his diabetes. Recently, Jim's health status has declined, forcing Delores to make some very difficult decisions. She never considered that she and Jim would ever be apart. With the coordination of care and the compassion of the Toledo Home staff, Delores is working her way through some of the most difficult decisions she has had to make. However, she is comforted by the fact that this ministry is in full support of Jim and her, and is presenting various options to her. God is there to grant comfort and peace.



SANDUSKY CAMPUS

When "Chuck" had the need for rehabilitation therapy, he came to Lutheran Memorial Home because of the care that his wife, who already lives at the Home, receives on a daily basis. Chuck had a total laryngectomy, which left him unable to eat or speak. He also was weak from his hospital stay and was having a difficult time with his post-surgery condition, which requires complex nursing care. Lutheran Memorial Home provided that care along with extensive therapy, and we had the opportunity to be a part of the tremendous progress that he was making. During Chuck's time at the Home, he was able to transition back to a regular diet, and the team assisted him with learning how to use an external voice box. He met all of his goals and was recently discharged home. Chuck now manages his diet, has learned how to speak/communicate, and performs his own medical care. He still comes to the Home on a daily basis to visit his wife, and they are both doing well.

NAPOLEON CAMPUS

No one wanted to care for "Jack." He had been involved in a high-profile crime that had left him in the hospital in need of rehabilitation. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the crime, his family was concerned that he would have no place else to go. Who would allow a "criminal" to stay at their facility? Several facilities had already stated that they would not accept him. Lutheran Home at Napoleon was different. After ensuring that Jack was not a risk to other residents and staff, and after many lengthy staff discussions, the decision was made that this was a perfect opportunity to "Live our Mission." After all, everybody deserves a second chance and everyone deserves a home. Upon arrival, Jack was extremely grateful and thrived in the environment. The Home worked with his lawyer to assist him in his legal matters and worked closely with his family to get him the help that he needed. Although he typically stayed in his room, he did start to attend church services. Pastor Genter made frequent visits to pray with him, which made a huge difference in Jack's motivation. His health continued to improve, and he rehabbed very quickly. His family was extremely grateful and, as he left to go home, he thanked us for "saving him." However, the story doesn't end there. A few weeks after being discharged, Jack came to the facility. He asked if it would be okay if he attended church. We immediately agreed and he took his seat in the chapel. The next week he showed up again, and he continued to attend church each week. A few weeks ago, we received a check from Jack. He said that he didn't have a lot of money, but wanted to give what he had to Lutheran Home at Napoleon. He said that his stay at the Home made all the difference in his life.

HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Clara” has had a recent decline in her health. Her daughter has indicated that she is worried about her mom and has requested that she consider moving in with her. Clara has shared that she has so many friends at her apartment complex and doesn’t wish to leave her home. The Service Coordinator recommended that Clara apply for Medicaid and PASSPORT services. At first, Clara was resistant. However, after the coordinator fully explained the benefits to these assistance programs, Clara verbalized interest in applying. She agreed that this would be the only way she could manage to stay in her home. Clara was approved for both Medicaid and PASSPORT services. She was uncertain about how to use her Medicaid card, so she went back to visit the coordinator for help. When the coordinator was finished explaining this program, Clara began to cry. She told the coordinator that she was so happy to have support to obtain assistance and not to have to worry about her personal and health care needs.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

One staff member at the Maumee Youth Center often says, “It’s all about the love, finding that one thing that works for each kid.” Over the years, staff members have found that showing love, kindness, and respect to each child and youth served does go a long way to helping youth change for the better. “Steve,” for instance, came to the Center one year ago with a long history of failures – failed placements, failing in school, his family failing him. He has had one disappointment after another since he was eight years old. Steve was in a hospital prior to coming to LHS. He was extremely violent, threatening people and punching people in the face with no regard to the consequences. When Steve came to the Center, staff treated him with dignity. He became open to the possibility of treating others the same way. After twelve months of intense treatment, he is beginning to change his thinking and not follow through on his aggressive urges. He talks with staff before he acts. He admits that “it feels weird” not to punch. Steve shared this past week that he really wanted to attack a peer and felt the anxiety and anger swelling in his body, but instead he did not do it. He said, “Something just came over me and I didn’t do it, something just changed in my mind and I didn’t punch anyone.” Such success may seem small, but it is large in Steve’s life. As one staff person puts it: “We cling to these small, miraculous changes in our kids.”



WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Francis,” who is 88 years old, came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek in 2009 for rehabilitation. She made it known to all that she was not happy and did not want to be in a nursing home. She wanted no part of anything offered to her at Wolf Creek. She literally refused to come out of her room. Nursing staff, aides, housekeepers, activities – even floor care personnel – took it upon themselves to help her adjust to her stay with their friendly, hospitable ways. She refused everything and everyone. Francis lived this way for over a year, until she discovered “Mable,” her next door neighbor, who also had been her next door neighbor at her previous apartment. Because Francis did not leave her apartment, she found out they were neighbors by their shared bathroom. Mable was successful in getting Francis to be more social, but unfortunately she passed away, and Francis went back to her “old” ways. Then 88-year-old “Mary” moved in next door to Francis. She also came to Wolf Creek for rehab and stayed pretty much to herself. Staff introduced Mary to Francis and they seemed to “click.” They talked more frequently and Mary convinced Francis to eat with her in the dining room. They became friends. Another new resident, 96-year-old “Kathryn,” moved in shortly after Mary, and staff introduced her to Mary and Francis. They have all become long-term residents at Wolf Creek and are the best of friends. They are inseparable. They go to bingo together, they eat meals together, and they chat with each other in the alcove outside their rooms every morning. Whenever you see one, you know the other two are not far behind. Mary is the “ring leader,” but always travels in the back of the pack making sure her friends are well. They are known as the “Golden Girls” or “Three Amigos.” They love Wolf Creek and all the caring staff they encounter each day. To see the change in Francis from the day she moved in to now has truly been a pleasure. It is heartwarming to see how she has “blossomed” and become so comfortable at Wolf Creek.