



God at Work in Our Midst

Lutheran Homes Society

November 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.

WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

After a complete knee replacement, 77-year-old "Ruth" came to Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek needing skilled care. Although looking forward to returning to her home, Ruth could not be more thrilled with her stay and the care she has received while at Wolf Creek. She speaks very highly of the rehabilitation department. She expressed how the therapists are more confident and helpful than anywhere she has been before. She appreciates how the nursing and therapy staff communicated with her throughout her stay, keeping her involved in her daily care and progress. She values how staff encouraged her recovery in a way that was not harsh or rushed, and they urged her to push herself because they all wanted her to excel. She knows that the staff really wants her to resume the lifestyle she had before her knee surgery. In addition, Ruth commented that she feels as if she is the only resident being cared for, because she feels so much support and love from the staff.

When passing by Ruth's room, oftentimes she would be typing rapidly on the keyboard of her laptop computer. She really loves the fact that Wolf Creek has WIFI. She boasted how she has 435 friends on Facebook and how she has been trying to get other residents to be her Facebook friends. Ruth said people do not realize how lucky they are and that they should rejoice for being at Wolf Creek for their care. She looks forward to being discharged to her home soon. She still has a lot of "living" to do; however, when the time comes that she needs more care, she plans on coming "back to the Creek" as a long-term resident.

FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

"Cheryl" came to LHS Family & Youth Services from a psychiatric unit at a hospital where she was aggressive and violent. She was unable to care for her basic needs such as showering or dressing. She felt frightened and worried continuously without relief. The fear and anxiety filled her eyes and face. She was placed at the LHS Maumee Youth Center, where child and youth care professionals provided her with a safe, structured environment while she worked on her mental health issues with her therapist and other staff. Through meticulous care and treatment, she literally began to "lighten up" and enjoy life.

Cheryl transformed from an aggressive, fearful person to a happy, thoughtful person, and it showed on her face. It showed in other ways as well – mainly in her behavior. She was no longer violent towards other people, and was able to move to a less restrictive setting. Today, she is a very pleasant young lady who enjoys saying nice things to others and asking for hugs. She engages others in conversation. She is able to express her feelings and care for herself in her daily routine. Transformation like this is what LHS Family & Youth Services is all about, helping children and youth change for the better.



HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Betty” was looking forward to attending her great-granddaughter’s wedding this month; however, she was concerned about being able to ambulate to and from the event without the assistance of a walker. Betty also wanted to have a seat on the walker, but she didn’t own a walker or rollator. She consulted with her housing site’s Service Coordinator about possibly renting or purchasing a walker to use for the event. The Service Coordinator was able to loan the resident a rollator with a seat at no cost through the LHS Personal Care Pantry, which stocks non-food items and used durable medial equipment for needy seniors. Betty was thrilled to have this equipment for free and to be able to attend her great-granddaughter’s wedding worry-free.

SANDUSKY CAMPUS

“Robert” came to Lutheran Memorial Home depressed, weak, and unmotivated, because he was told at the hospital he would never be able to go home. Robert told the staff he had not been away from his daughter for such a long period of time in years. He had been living with his daughter for the last 15 years, and they had spent every single day together until he fell ill and was admitted to a hospital in Cleveland. Knowing this information, staff worked very hard to get Robert strong enough to return home. The dietary manager made sure Robert had all his favorite dishes and arranged for Robert and his daughter to eat lunch and dinner together. The nursing staff educated his daughter on the various treatments and procedures she would need to know to take her father home. After 25 days, Robert was strong enough to walk with a walker, and his daughter felt competent in providing the care he would need at home. On the day of discharge Robert’s daughter stated that “we have the most dedicated, loving staff that she has ever encountered.”



NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Nellie” recently was admitted to Lutheran Home at Napoleon with multiple medical complications. The problems that led to her initial admission were progressing well, but the nursing staff detected an issue with an incision. The nurses contacted her surgeon in Akron to inform him of her current situation, and an appointment was scheduled to evaluate Nellie the next day. Staff contacted the family about the development, but they could not take her to the appointment. When staff called a local company to set up transportation, they learned that it would cost \$800. Nellie became very upset about the situation, as she could not afford the cost. At the time, the campus’ bus was already booked to transport another resident, but after some creative maneuvering, a solution was reached to provide transport for both residents. Nellie was relieved and grateful for the assistance and flexibility in helping her out. She is on the road to recovery and will soon be going back to her home in the community. The Napoleon campus is truly blessed to have the ability to provide transportation for its residents.



TOLEDO CAMPUS

God works His marvels every day in each of our ministries. The Lord blesses and keeps the residents as well as the caregivers. It is important to understand that the Lord provides our caregivers with peace, strength and renewal. On October 20, Chaplain Clyde Singh presided over a “Blessing of the Hands” ceremony at Lutheran Home at Toledo. Chaplain Singh conducted this service with staff and residents present. The residents provided the support and prayers for the staff as God blesses them and renews them to carry on their duties. There are times that serving others may be difficult, but God provides a sense of purpose and mission that constantly shows that He is at work in our midst.