



# God at Work in Our Midst

## Lutheran Homes Society

October 2011



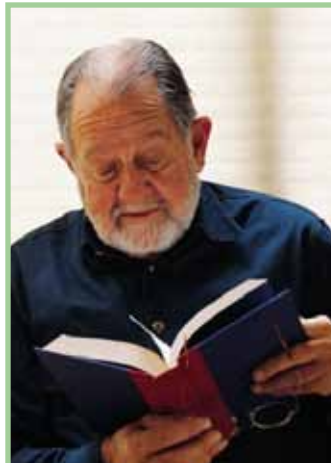
On a daily basis, Lutheran Homes Society impacts hundreds of residents, clients and families. The stories shown here reflect the mission of Lutheran Homes Society to care for needy youth and elderly with compassion. Sharing these stories lets you know your support is truly making a difference in people's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

### FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

Prior to "Mandy" coming into care at the Oregon Treatment Facility, she was violent, aggressive, and engaging in sexually inappropriate behaviors. She had been physically and sexually abused while living at home with her parents and while living with foster parents. She also had suffered from extreme neglect. When Mandy came to the Oregon setting, she began to thrive on the attention and nurturing she received from front line child and youth care professionals. Staff helped Mandy deal appropriately with her emotions to minimize feelings of stress or anxiety. She became more vocal and was able to engage in more appropriate conversations through working on social skills in therapy. Mandy no longer displayed aggressive or sexually inappropriate behaviors at the facility. She was able to do well in school and went to work at a local hospital cafeteria through a program at school aimed at teaching students basic work skills. Mandy stated several times that she felt the Oregon setting was her home and that she trusted staff there. The diligent efforts by front line child and youth care professionals, working in coordination with therapists, teachers and others, helped Mandy change her life for the better.

### TOLEDO CAMPUS

"Charlie" has had two different stays at Lutheran Home at Toledo. During the first stay, Charlie was very ill and came to the Toledo Home for skilled nursing care. He recuperated and went home. However, the problem was that Charlie was developmentally disabled and was not able to care for himself properly. Consequently, Charlie once again became ill and returned to the Toledo Home. After working with Social Services, the decision was reached that Charlie would stay at the facility. That decision was the correct one for Charlie, as his quality of life flourished as a resident. Charlie never learned to read, so a volunteer took it upon herself to teach Charlie. He has been receiving one-on-one instruction for several months. He now has the ability to read the meal ticket at dinner and is able to order for himself what he wishes to eat. Definitely, the LHS value of Wholeness of Life is working for Charlie.



### SANDUSKY CAMPUS

One of "Ellen's" favorite places to visit is the zoo. She remembers taking her kids and visiting with grandkids. Consequently, she was ecstatic to find out that Lutheran Memorial Home had scheduled an outing to the Toledo Zoo. She told staff that she hadn't been to the zoo in 20 years and could hardly wait. She talked about the planned visit for weeks and wouldn't miss an opportunity to ask other residents whether they were planning to go. When the day finally arrived, Ellen was the first one on the bus. She reminisced about all of the good memories she had visiting the zoo and her favorite animals, the monkeys. The trip went great; the zoo was everything that she had hoped. She visited all of the animals, ate some snacks, and laughed with the other residents. Ellen still talks about the trip and says she can't wait until they go again next year. Day trips like this are a great example of how our activities enrich the lives of our residents.

## NAPOLEON CAMPUS

“Helen” and her husband were admitted to the facility about six months ago due to his change in condition. Helen could no longer provide care to her husband of 61 years, and the family noticed she also was having some memory issues. Helen was physically fit and able to handle most of her activities of daily living by herself, as well as help her husband. As time passed, Helen longed to play her baby grand piano in the spare time she now had because she no longer had housework to do. During her daughter’s visits, she always mentioned how much she missed that piano. The daughter approached the management team to ask if they could bring in her mother’s piano as a surprise birthday gift. After consideration, the team decided to allow it, as Helen’s true passion in life is playing hymns on the piano. As Helen entered the front lobby, her eyes lit up when she saw her piano. You see, as Helen’s memory continues to decline, the one thing that she can do well is play the church hymns that she has played for years. Helen never took piano lessons and plays music by ear. She started at the age of 11 playing for her pastor, who happened to be her father. Each day, we are blessed by hearing her and watching various residents come to the front lobby to listen. It is truly an inspiration to listen and watch her play, because the delight she gets is so evident. We are happy that we were able to give Helen one thing she still enjoys – her piano!

## WOLF CREEK CAMPUS

“Mary” was a resident of Creekside for years. After two strokes, it became necessary for her to transition to a facility where she could receive additional assistance with her medical needs. Both Mary and her daughter said that the natural place was Lutheran Village at Wolf Creek’s Assisted Living. The consistent and caring service and the compassionate care that Mary has received have made a real difference in all aspects of her life. Mary’s daughter recalls a situation with her mother that, although the staff said that they were just doing their job, demonstrated the gift Wolf Creek has been to her family. Mary’s daughter said that on Tuesday her mother thought she might be coming down with a cold. The nurses noticed that she had a cough and contacted the doctor. The doctor diagnosed her with the beginning of pneumonia. Antibiotics and breathing treatments were started immediately. By Saturday, she was back to eating in the dining room and participating in her normal activities.

The vigilance of the nurses and staff made what could have been a prolonged episode of illness into a three-day respite from her normal routine. Her daughter noted that all of this was done without her mother having to leave the facility. Having watched her mother suffer through bouts of pneumonia over the years, this was an exceptional gift! Since Mary’s move, her daughter has seen an increase in her well-being. While still remaining as independent as possible, Mary has found herself a new home that has proved to be a benefit for her and her family.



## HOUSING & COMMUNITY SERVICES

“Bob” fell and broke his dentures into several pieces. In order to get his dentures replaced, he was going to have a large medical bill that he could not afford, but it was something he would have to do. In passing, he mentioned this to the Service Coordinator at his LHS housing site. The Service Coordinator was able to help Bob with the financial burden of replacing his dentures through the LHS Resident Assistance Fund. The contribution was a blessing to Bob because the fund provided him with financial relief and enabled him to avoid having to choose between dentures and other necessities.