

To Have Life!



To Live Again!

*Luther Home of Mercy
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Dora's Story

This is just a glimpse into the life of Dora, a resident at Luther Home of Mercy since 1956. Born in East Prussia, Germany in 1933, she fled with her mother, grandmother, sister and brother to Denmark and lived there while Hitler was in power. Her father had been captured and taken to Siberia.

In 1947 or 1948, Dora and her family returned to Germany and had to live in a concentration camp. They escaped and were captured several times. In 1955, at the age of 22, Dora's dream of coming to America came true. She was sponsored by a family in Michigan who brought her to the Toledo area to care for a member of their family. The boat trip to America, however, had taken a toll on Dora's health and she was unable to stay very long with her new-found Michigan friends.

The seriousness of Dora's illness was unknown, but progressively worsened to the point where she required hospitalization. Shortly thereafter, Dora lapsed into a coma for more than six months. Dora's attending physician was very concerned over his unresponsive patient, and worried for her future. It happened that he was acquainted with Pastor Max and Lillian Schleicher, and suggested that Luther Home of Mercy would be able to provide long-term care for Dora.

When Dora awoke from the coma she found herself in a strange place with a Nurse putting something into a tube that led to her body. Dazed and frightened, she let out a scream. Dora remembers that it was a good one as attending Staff rejoiced at her re-entry to life following months of unresponsive silence.



She has lived at Luther Home of Mercy since then and experienced many changes through the years. On June 7, 1970 Dora became a citizen of the United States of America!

She says she has had a good life here at Luther Home, and has many friends among the staff and residents. She feels she has had a Guardian Angel watching over her throughout her life.

In 2008 Luther Home of Mercy celebrated the 80th anniversary of its ministry. Dora entered the attached piece of Art Work in an art contest in which more than 20 residents participated.

With the life she has experienced, who could more clearly understand what it is like ***"TO HAVE LIFE ... TO LIVE AGAIN."***

The butterfly is sometimes used to symbolize the Christian promise of resurrection. Dora's story proclaims a joyful witness of this promise to the life of every Christian.