

Presbyterian Homes



PROJECT:

Presbyterian Homes, Evanston, IL

ISSUE:

- Eliminate power interruptions
- Control energy costs

SOLUTION:

- 2400 kW gas-fired cogeneration system

RESULTS:

- Over \$400,000 annual savings
- Elimination of power interruptions

CASE STUDY

CONTINUING CARE COMMUNITY SOLVES RELIABILITY PROBLEMS AND SAVES OVER \$400,000 ANNUALLY WITH COGENERATION

Providing quality health care and safety for residents is of greatest importance to health care providers. Lives depend on constant operation of equipment as well as a comfortable living environment — therefore power failures simply can not be tolerated. For Presbyterian Homes, a not-for-profit continuing care provider of independent living, assisted living and nursing care to over 1,600 older adults on several Chicago area campuses, reliability became a problem after a nine-hour power outage wreaked havoc on one of their campuses.

A winter ice storm brought a surprise power outage to their 40-acre Westminster Place community in Evanston causing quite a disruption for their approximately 600 senior residents. A continuing care community such as theirs requires constant power to operate essential equipment such as oxygen machines and emergency call buttons. As temperatures continued to drop outside, there was also much concern over the safety and well being of their residents since the facility must also maintain a constant comfortable temperature.

This power outage caused the management team of Presbyterian Homes to recognize that an

immediate and permanent solution was needed to avoid future power interruptions, so they turned to Nicor for help.

The solution to their reliability problem was a 2,400 kW cogeneration system that provides power reliability for the facility and significantly reduces energy costs. The cogeneration unit operates 13 hours a day, five days a week (Monday – Friday) from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. to provide power for the facility. In addition, exhaust heat and jacket water heat are recovered from the unit and provide low-pressure steam that is used by the facility's boiler system to heat the facility in the winter and supply the absorption chillers in the summer for cooling.

On average the cogeneration system is saving Presbyterian Homes over \$400,000 annually in energy costs.

"The environment we provide to elderly adults had everything to do with our decision to pursue power generation," said Keith Stohlgren, Vice President of Operations for Presbyterian Homes. "Loss of power shouldn't be an option for our residents. And thankfully, our residents now find comfort in our new constant source of power."

