

19th Century Catholic Charity gets 21st Century Security System

CASE STUDY

Non-profit nursing home moves from outdated, unsecure brass keys to fully integrated Lenel OnGuard access control with Intelligent Locking System (ILS).

The Little Sisters of the Poor is a Roman Catholic order for women. It was founded in the 19th century by Saint Jeanne Jugan near Rennes, France. Jugan felt the need to care for the many impoverished elderly who lined the streets of French towns and cities. Today, approximately 2,700 Little Sisters operate nursing homes in 31 countries around the world, continuing their purpose of caring for approximately 13,000 elderly residents.

Little Sisters of the Poor Sacred Heart Residence located in Mobile, Ala., cares for 90 plus residents, all of whom are over 60 and without the financial means to maintain independence in their community. To protect this vulnerable population they had a 40-year-old brass key system and had given out unknown numbers of master keys over the years. Clearly it was time to modernize. While the Mother of the home was happy with getting a new lock and key system, Wayne Schulz, facilities manager, was less enthused.

"I said 'no more master keys,'" Schulz says. "I wanted a computer-based card system where you can change something at a central point and it automatically updates. I don't want to go out and touch the lock. And I don't want to have to carry 10 million keys. With an electronic system we could have just one card for everything."



I said 'NO MORE MASTER KEYS'



“

It allows us easier access to the rooms, with more accountability

”

Little Sisters did have a 10-year-old card system that was used on just two external doors, but Schulz wanted a full solution to provide more security and added protection for both staff and residents by installing an integrated access control and video surveillance system. While the Mother did agree to an electronic system, she made it clear to Schulz that she didn't want to have to rewire the building to accommodate it.

Schulz approached Security 101, a local integrator, for help. “Little Sisters wanted a regular access control system, but they needed it done cost-efficiently,” says John Gibson, owner, Security 101. As an organization that relies on charity and the begging tradition, begun by their founder over 170 years ago, keeping costs down was an extremely important factor in choosing any system.

From Brass Keys to Full Integration Benefits

As a UTC Fire & Security VAR, Security 101 was very familiar with the options that the company could provide. However, there was also a new line of Lenel standalone wireless battery-operated locks, manufactured by Onity, designed to integrate with Lenel's OnGuard access control system. This seemed to be a perfect fit for the Little Sisters.

Within six months, Little Sisters went from an outdated and unsecure brass key system to a fully integrated hardwired/wireless lock combination that incorporated their video system and door alarms – all of which serve to protect both the elderly residents and the people who work and volunteer at the home.

Now each employee has just one access card for the 15 external and 130 internal doors.

The choice of Lenel's OnGuard access control system combined with the Intelligent Locking System (ILS) allowed UTC Fire & Security to offer the Sisters a complete solution, streamlining access and video on a single platform. This provides the organization with a system that exactly fits their needs.

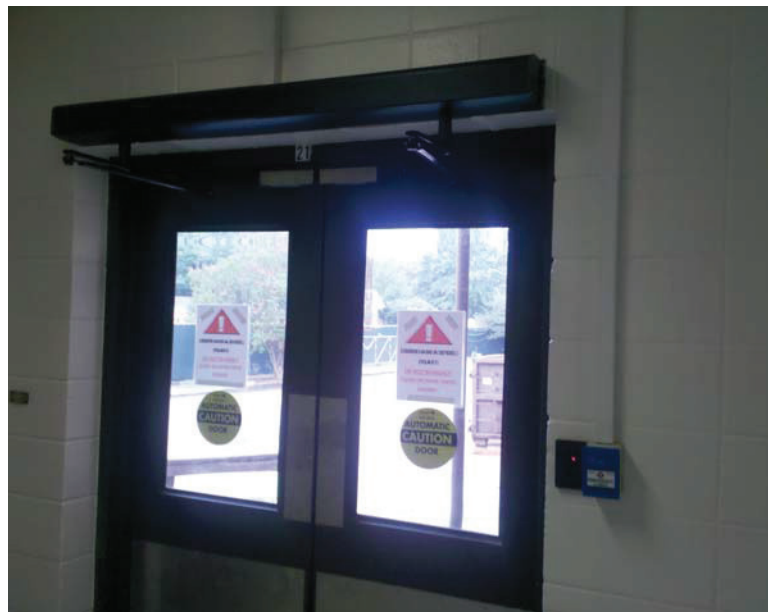
Only the external doors are tied in with the video system and monitored real-time, Schulz explains. These doors are also integrated into OnGuard's Total Security Knowledge Management Solutions monitoring system, so that when a door is breached, the front desk is immediately alerted and the cameras turned to that location. The cameras also automatically come on whenever a badge is presented to verify that the card matches the person entering.

While the external doors are monitored real-time, the battery operated ILS locks store all their transactions locally and send an update to the server once or twice a day. However, if someone tries to get into a room they don't have access to; a "denied access" alert will be sent to the system immediately.

"It is a great tracking tool," Schulz says. "It allows us easier access to the rooms, with more accountability. Before, if someone went into an office, we never knew it. Now if something is missing we can track who went into that office. If an employee leaves or loses a card, we can have it out of the system in minutes so no one can use it to get into the building. And if a resident leaves the building through an unauthorized door, audible alarms sound and the front desk is immediately notified."

Gibson adds: "Their return on investment is knowing what is going on and not having a door left open and unlocked, only to have someone say 'I didn't do it.' It is a huge liability with so many elderly people. And on weekends families come to visit. The Sisters can't afford to have personnel files left unlocked or sensitive materials vulnerable."

Schulz, for his part, is thrilled with the system. "We were going to have to spend however many thousands of dollars to rekey the building; this solution was just what we needed and just in time to update us and bring us into the modern world."



“They wanted a regular access control system, but they needed it done cost-efficiently”

Lenel Systems International, Inc.
1212 Pittsford-Victor Road
Pittsford, New York 14534 USA
Tel 585.248.9720 Fax 585.248.9185

© 2012 Lenel Systems International, Inc.
All rights reserved.

lenel.com

Lenel focuses on developing products that enable organizations to effectively protect and manage their people, property and assets by maximizing IT and infrastructure investments.

PERPETUAL INNOVATION

