

Light Amidst Darkness

It was once again light amidst the darkness -- a shining demonstration of the bravery and commitment of Life Care associates who stood their ground against the onslaught of fierce Hurricane Frances -- and won. Virtually all of Life Care's centers in Florida were touched in some way by the storm's attack on the state, whether by rain or wind. Taking the brunt of the blow were those from the Palm Beach area north to Orlando.

Life Care's President Don Giardina said he is "pleasantly surprised that we had no greater damages than we did. While the storm might not have been as intense as Charley, its longer duration put extended pressure on our buildings and our associates. I am not surprised, however, that our associates fought through the night and day and did everything to ensure the safety of our residents."

Cathy Murray, chief operating officer, along with Bryan Cook, vice president of the Eastern Division, closely monitored the preparations of our staffs and the approach and the strike of Hurricane Frances.

She was impressed and touched by the performance of Life Care associates. "They did really well," she said. "The staff in each building pulled together, and managed to keep our residents and their family members -- and we had many families who chose to stay with us in our buildings -- calm. These associates stayed steadfast in their duties while their own homes and families were at risk from the storm."

One of the very impressive stories of the hurricane, Murray said, was the decision of Dr. Rohit Dandiya, medical director at The Gardens Court in Palm Beach, who moved into the facility with his family as Frances prepared to make landfall. "He was there throughout the storm to provide medical care for our residents, and also to help our other facilities who, when they could not reach their own physicians, called in to talk to him. He helped support them in their time of need."

Damages to Life Care buildings were minor, Murray said. "The biggest problem came at The Gardens Court, where the electronic doors at the front entrance bent and jammed. We have been able to secure the entranceway, but we will have to replace the doors."

Most of the buildings lost power and went on generator for a short period of time, but as of this morning (Tuesday), power had been restored to all but Darcy Hall.

When adversity hits, true character is revealed. Life Care's associates in Florida graded A-plus.

– Beecher Hunter