

No Heat? No Sweat

When a boiler became inoperable and power outages struck portions of the city Wednesday, Life Care Center of Wichita was confronted with the challenge of keeping its 118 residents warm.

So Roy Grigsby, the executive director of the facility, decided to create a party-type atmosphere.

“We told them we were going to have a sleep-over last night,” Grigsby said on Thursday, “and they loved it.”

The building is heated from two different sources – a circulating boiler system that serves the resident rooms and an electrically controlled furnace system that serves the common areas.

“When the boiler broke down, we moved the residents to the rehab gym and to the dining room for the night as their temporary quarters. This was a different, kind of exciting, routine for them and they enjoyed it. They slept like babies, and snored like crazy, but they all got a good night’s rest.

“And when the power went off, our generator kicked in, so we have been able to fulfill our electrical needs,” Grigsby said.

Life Care Center of Wichita’s management team and caregivers “are amazing,” Grigsby added. “They showed their commitment to our residents by dividing up. Half of our department directors stayed until 3 a. m. to assist our nursing team, and the others came in at that time.

“They proved what we proclaim in our mission statement – residents, indeed, are our highest priority,” Grigsby added.

Boiler repairs are being made, and life routines are getting back to normal.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is taking lemons and turning them into lemonade.

--Beecher Hunter