



Cortland Successfully Weathers Storm – The untold story.

Superstorm Sandy dumped 38 inches of heavy wet snow on the Cortland Acres community between noon on October 29 and evening on October 31. The power went off at 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, and that's when the incredible things started happening.

Cortland was ready. A diesel fuel powered generator ran the facility for the next five days. A 1,000 gallon fuel shipment was received on Thursday from Oakland Oil to continue generated power.

Approximately 20 residents from the Pineview Apartments were relocated to the main facility or were staying with family and friends by late Tuesday. Most slept on recliners or couches for the duration. All had meals and a warm place to stay.

Cortland Acres staff members were incredible. Several employees were unable to get to their powerless homes, so they stayed at the facility providing care and activities. Many local staff worked additional hours in various areas of the facilities helping wherever they were needed.

Staff from all departments joined together to make the best of the tremendous storm. Dietary staff operated from emergency meal plans. The Activities department kept things happening with residents, including cupcake baking, "blizzard bingo," checkers and puzzles.

Administrative and activity staff assisted in the kitchen. Maintenance, laundry and housekeeping staff continued to keep things running smoothly. The Rehab staff kept residents in their therapy routines, including Dan Sager, a physical therapy assistant who made the commute from his Pennsylvania home nearly every day.

Many staff members didn't miss even one day of work, an incredible show of dedication.

Family members of many residents jumped in to help, too, after checking on their loved ones and helping at Cortland and throughout the community. Overall it was a wonderful reminder of what a great community this is, and how much people help each other.

Davis Home Plus delivered important supplies as soon as the roadways were safely passable. Pharma Care from Barboursville met their prescription deliveries with help from Cortland staff, and physicians remained available to address resident emergent needs. Board members assisted and made sure things went as smoothly as possible.

Charles Roth and Jimmy Wilfong with plows and an endloader cleaned the huge snowfall from the parking lots.

Friends of Cortland volunteers helped, too. They opened the gift shop, and Father Grassi held mass on Friday, November 2. Sirianni's Pizza Café also brought food to the facility. Although the rumor of our roof collapsing spread rapidly through the county, there wasn't ever a danger that the roof would fall. National Guard crews did inspect the structure and scientifically assessed the load on the building. The building was more than strong enough to sustain the load.

Administrative and senior management tirelessly led the staff throughout the whole event.

The City of Thomas provided uninterrupted utility service including water to the site. In the words of Administrator, "Thomas never missed a beat." The Thomas and Davis Volunteer Fire Departments, Department of Highways and the Tucker County Office of Emergency Management were also really responsive to all requests. This successful effort allowed the emergency personnel to direct their resources to others in need.

This facility has an amazing network of staff, board members, volunteer and friends that helped make this operation truly an untold success story!

Cortland Acres operates a 94-bed long-term care and rehabilitation facility, Pineview apartments, and The Pines housing development. For more information call 304-463-4181.