

# CASE STUDY >

## Lifespire Testimonial

Lifespire selects Fellowes to help high-risk residents breathe easier



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*Jerry Butcher  
Director of Operations, Lifespire*



*Celebrating over 60 Years of Advocacy  
and Service to New Yorkers  
with developmental disabilities.*

Lifespire, which offers a wide range of residential and day habilitation services for individuals with medical, intellectual, and developmental disabilities in the New York area, was facing a pressing issue. The recent COVID-19 pandemic had caused personnel to rethink their approach to ensuring resident safety. In addition, there was facility management complexity: Lifespire serves more than 4,000 individuals across 50 group homes, 20 educational/day facilities and employs over 1,200 staff members. That meant needing adaptability in providing healthy safety measures.

“Keeping individuals as safe as possible with the least restrictive living arrangements is my number one priority—above all else,” said Jerry Bucher, Director of Operations for Lifespire. “The challenge is that varies depending on the group home. For example, some individuals are medically challenged or significantly impaired. Some are able to work and need little assistance.”

Given that early on the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provided information on ways to fight the pandemic, Bucher researched air filtration as a possible combatant. And that led him to Fellowes.

Fellowes met with representatives of Lifespire to more fully understand its needs; because viruses are transmitted via aerosolization of droplets in the air, Fellowes recommended a fleet of Fellowes air purifiers to effectively and efficiently remove airborne contaminants from Lifespire living spaces.

In addition, Ed Doherty, an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Specialist at Fellowes, assessed areas in the various locations for placement of units, and provided vital information from governmental resources on mitigating risks of airborne pathogens to Lifespire. He also consulted with Lifespire personnel on best practices to boost indoor air quality. He even coordinated shipment and delivery of Fellowes units, offering a turnkey approach to solving Lifespire's problem.

Ultimately, Fellowes installed 900 AeraMax® Professional IV air purifiers in 50 Lifespire residences, as well as the Lifespire headquarters. These Fellowes air purifiers have a hospital-like, four-stage system employing HEPA filtration to remove up to 99.97 percent of airborne contaminants, like viruses, germs, bacteria, allergens, odors and dust, from enclosed spaces.

Bucher said Fellowes provided a mix of wall and standalone units, offering the various homes the flexibility to determine which type of unit was most effective for its needs. "Some places didn't want wall units," Bucher said, "because they wanted the ability to move the units around to address air concerns in certain spots."

That flexibility was welcomed—as was the ease of installation for situations warranting a mounted wall unit. "The units were so simple to install...and once we had the first few under our belts, the installation went faster and faster," Bucher said.



The installed units were equipped with Fellowes' patented EnviroSmart™ Technology, which uses dual laser particle sensors to "read" the air in a room, adjusting the performance of the units to ensure effortless air cleaning. EnviroSmart™ allows users to simply "set it and forget it"—the self-regulating sensors constantly scan the air, measuring air particles and adjusting the Fellowes air purifier unit to maximize efficiency.

These sensors actively and continually measure sound, motion, and air quality in a room, automatically adjusting the Fellowes air purifier—it works hard when it needs to, and ramps down when it isn't necessary, saving energy and extending filter lifespan.

The units also take advantage of unique PureView™ Technology, which works in concert with the EnviroSmart™ sensors. Occupants can see, via a display, the stages of the air cleaning process, as well as feel the difference in air quality when the unit is cleaning the air. The PureView™ visual display also showcases VOC/odor levels and notifies when to replace the unit's filters.

For Lifespire, AeraMax® offered more than a visual cue regarding the air cleaning process. It offered maintenance simplicity. "First of all, (the units) identify when filters need to be changed," Bucher said. "And, the filters are easy to replace—training is so minimal that almost anyone can replace the filters, which is a huge win for us, because you don't need a special technician. That saves time and money. Working with Fellowes, we set up a system where filters are sent out to the various locations on a pre-planned basis, so they're stored and available when it's time to change them. That way, there's continuity of service. Another plus: We could lock the units so only authorized personnel could change settings or access controls. That's a great safety and security feature."

For Lifespire, the addition of the Fellowes air purifiers resulted in peace of mind. "The people in our homes were extremely grateful, since there were several residents that were previously affected by COVID," Bucher said. "So, people—including our staff and visitors—were concerned and afraid. But through this installation process with Fellowes, we worked to make situations as comfortable as possible during the pandemic, making the air safe for residents, staff and visitors."