

Axis helps organization care for young minds.

An access control and network camera solution gives staff at the Italian Home for Children comfort as they serve the community.



Organization:
Italian Home for Children

Location:
Boston, Massachusetts,
USA

Industry segment:
Education

Application:
Access control, safety and
security

Axis partners:
Integrated Security
& Communications,
Salient Systems

Mission

Seeking additional security measures to protect its facilities serving urban youth just south of Boston, the Italian Home for Children had its eyes on both access control and surveillance cameras to strengthen its sense of safety. The inefficient practice of changing out keys and locks each time an employee left the facility was not only time-consuming but also created security issues if keys were duplicated without the agency knowing it. Answering the front door caused nervousness without any tangible way of seeing who was there.

Solution

The Italian Home deployed an Axis physical access control solution along with a variety of Axis indoor and outdoor network cameras that are all meant to boost security efforts. The network door controllers allow the Italian Home to easily add and remove access for individuals to the facility or certain spaces within, while the cameras outside of the main entrance give staff a bold view of who is not only approaching the doors but also who may be near or around the property.

Result

Staff have found continued success with their access control system that requires just the scanning of an ID badge at the doors rather than an old-fashioned key and lock to gain entry into the buildings. The Italian Home realized cost savings quickly with this method, as there is no additional cost associated with switching out an employee's access through their card rather than worrying about who may have taken and copied a key into the facility. The organization is happy to report reinforced security habits that allow staff to keep focus on the wellbeing of the individuals in attendance.

“[Using the AXIS A1001 Door Controllers] is very smooth and very easy. It has become a vital part of our HR system to use AXIS Entry Manager as needed to grant individuals unique access as they need it. It is very comforting to easily turn off access for any individual badge as well, knowing that it is not like a key that can be duplicated behind our backs.”

Dr. Alan Jacobson, CEO, Italian Home for Children.

Encouraging community growth

Serving urban communities south of Boston, the Italian Home for Children is a facility designed to provide residential, academic, clinical and spiritual enrichment services to children and families with emotional and educational needs. At its main location in the suburb of Jamaica Plain, the Italian Home is situated in an old brick-laden structure with limited outside views from windows, thus requiring another means outdoors.

The Italian Home's primary goal is to keep the children on campus safe and secure so that they are able to learn and thrive in the environment. With close to 100 kids ages 5-14 on campus any given day, upwards of 40 staff members diligently keep an eye on operations and oversee countless activities while relying on each other to point out any noticeable issues. With nothing stopping anybody from getting in previously, the Italian Home sought a solution that not only provided live views in and around its buildings but also an access control solution to allow staff to enter and exit as needed.

Simplicity in controlling access

Prior to its newly installed system, the Italian Home relied on a traditional key and lock installation on all doors to grant entry to staff as needed. One major issue with this was the need to re-key the entire building each time a staff person left, not know who may have had access to that person's keys before they are turned in.

A total of 18 AXIS A1001 Network Door Controllers were deployed on both external-facing doors as well as rooms requiring privacy like dormitories. The interior doors needing coverage are generally rooms that the Italian Home would prefer visitors not wander into on their own, even if they are formally permitted on the property.

The main and back entrances were key to this solution as staff can scan their ID badge at the door and be granted immediate access; when a staff member leaves the organization altogether, their card is simply deactivated using AXIS Entry Manager.

“It is very smooth and very easy,” commented Dr. Alan Jacobson, CEO of the Italian Home for Children. “It has become a vital part of our HR system to use AXIS Entry Manager as needed to grant individuals unique access as they need it. It is very comforting to easily turn off access for any individual badge as well, knowing that it is not like a key that can be duplicated behind our backs.”

Looking through the walls

The facility size is over 50,000 square feet overall, with the main building sizing up as half of that total. The issue for staff has always been in determining who is around and what their purpose may be to approach and request access to the building. The full brick walls, though containing a selection of windows, create a sizable barrier for staff to straightforwardly know who may be lurking around the structure.

Further, a set of Axis network cameras was installed across the property to resolve these issues. “It is absolutely vital for us to have a security system with live viewing access,” Dr. Jacobson added. “We need to make sure first and foremost that we are keeping these kids safe and secure, and especially to know who is in the building at any given time.”

Cameras monitoring the parking lot and the front door are critical additions to the Italian Home's security arrangements. A selection of AXIS P3365-VE Network Cameras allows staff to see who is approaching the building, whether by car or foot. The Italian Home utilizes CompleteView VMS from Salient System to monitor activity and pull footage as needed to address any concerns. Before, staff was stuck asking questions of who was at the entrance and determining why they were there. These new preventative measures shore up the comfort levels of everybody involved.

Additionally, multiple AXIS M3005-V Fixed Dome Network Cameras are placed in crucial spots within the facility to provide a tool for staff to react in case of an incident. These 2-megapixel mini domes provide additional help in making sure things are in order and running smoothly.

