

How Intelligent Infrastructure Transformed Accessibility and Operations for a Community Hub

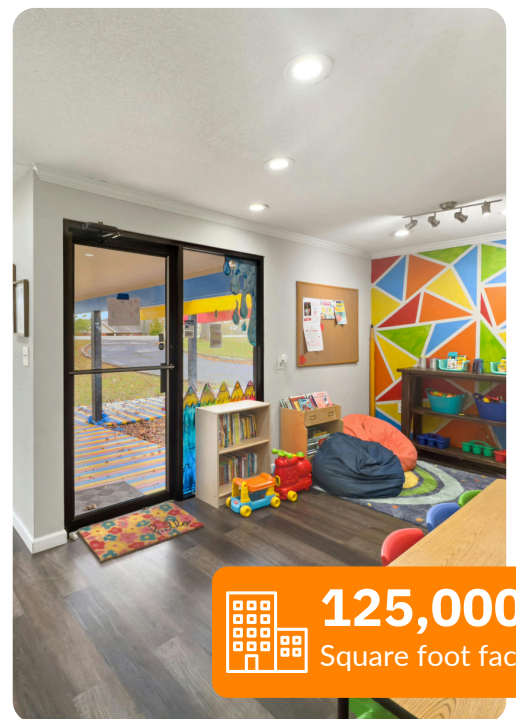
Modernizing network operations, enhancing facility safety, and future-proofing a 125,000 sq. ft. Community Hub.

A Mission Built on Inclusion

A state-of-the-art community hub is dedicated to improving quality of life through inclusive programs, research, and advocacy. Operating a massive 125,000-square-foot facility, they require technology that isn't just functional—it must be accessible. Their goal is to enable every individual to participate fully in community life, blending physical accessibility with seamless digital engagement.

When Legacy Systems Limit Potential

Despite the organization's forward-thinking mission, its IT infrastructure was stuck in the past. An internal IT Manager inherited a network that was unreliable, fragmented, and nearing end-of-life. With limited internal capacity, the IT Manager was forced to manage the entire infrastructure alone, leaving little time for strategic growth. Unreliable connectivity and outdated cabling threatened the delivery of digital services, while legacy systems failed to provide adequate oversight for such a large facility.



Reimagining What Accessible, Digital-First Spaces Can Be

To define a path to modernization, Paragon Micro collaborated closely with the IT Manager and key stakeholders. While the group initially hesitated regarding the scope of external involvement, Paragon Micro demonstrated that hardware alone wasn't the answer. By proving the value of Professional Services, they aligned the team on a shared deployment strategy designed to:

Replace legacy systems with a fully cloud-managed network refresh, including Wi-Fi, cameras, and access controls.

Leverage Paragon Micro's PMO to handle the complex deployment efficiently and reliably.

Mitigate risk and relieve the burden on the internal team to ensure a low-risk, high-quality transformation.

Intelligent Infrastructure Designed for People, Not Just Devices

Extending Internal Capabilities

Recognizing the bandwidth constraints of the internal IT team, Paragon Micro's PMO served as a force multiplier, owning the full project lifecycle from start to finish. The team handled all planning, scheduling, and vendor coordination, keeping the project on time and on budget while allowing the IT Manager to remain focused on day-to-day operations. They also managed the complex cutover process to ensure zero unplanned downtime for critical community services.

Proactive Environmental Oversight

The facility was transformed from reactive legacy systems to proactive, intelligent monitoring. Meraki MV smart cameras were installed to provide panoramic coverage, featuring integrated storage and advanced analytics. Meraki MX firewalls with Advanced Security licensing were deployed to safeguard member data and prevent network intrusions. Additionally, Meraki MT sensors were integrated to monitor temperature and humidity, protecting critical assets and ensuring the facility's physical comfort.

Paragon Micro executed a comprehensive modernization strategy with end-to-end project management.

High-Performance Connectivity

To support the bandwidth needs of modern digital services, a high-capacity network foundation was deployed, consisting of Cisco Catalyst and Meraki access switches. This architecture delivers the throughput required for data-heavy applications while simplifying network topology. A facility-wide deployment of Wi-Fi 6 and 6E access points ensures fast, pervasive connectivity. This allows members using assistive technologies to roam seamlessly across the facility without interruption.

Cabling & Power

Reliability extended to the facility's physical layer with a backbone upgrade designed for long-term performance and organization. Over 6,000 feet of Cat6 plenum cable was installed, terminated with high-quality patch panels for a clean, organized, and reliable physical connection. To ensure uptime, the infrastructure is backed by enterprise-grade APC Smart-UPS and PDUs, housed in secure wall-mount enclosures.

A Future-Ready Foundation for an Accessible Community Experience

The organization successfully modernized its outdated, unreliable systems into a unified, intelligent infrastructure. This transformation has secured their operations for the next decade, turning a fragile legacy setup into a robust, scalable foundation that supports both their internal team and their community mission.

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Future-Proofed Scalability

Established a secure, resilient network foundation designed to support evolving technology needs for the next 10–15 years.



Simplified Management

Reduced the operational burden on the "Solo IT" manager with a highly automated, low-touch cloud management system.



Enhanced Monitoring and Access

Better connectivity for assistive technologies and improved facility oversight with enterprise-grade smart cameras and sensors.