

Gardant Management Solutions Takes Control of Its Financial Future with Solver's xFP&A Solution

With more than 25 years of experience, Illinois-based **Gardant Management Solutions** manages a portfolio of thriving senior living, assisted living, and memory care facilities across five states. Gardant-managed facilities, which include more than 8,600 apartments, consistently receive best-in-class resident satisfaction scores and have been recognized with numerous national awards.



INDUSTRY
Senior living

ERP
Sage Intacct

“Our capability to create reports to benefit the whole company's operations has been outstanding.”

– **Nicole Cecich**, Senior director of Financial Accounting
at Gardant Management Solutions

THE CHALLENGE

Gardant manages a large network of residential communities across five states, each with its own payroll and set of books. The company needed the flexibility to create organization-wide reports and budgets, while also drilling down into the specifics of certain facilities when necessary. Its previous approach—budgeting through a complicated series of Excel files, and manually generating the same reports over and over again—wasted too much time and left too many opportunities for mistakes.



THE SOLUTION

Gardant needed a software solution with nimble reporting capabilities, as well as “one place where budgeting would be housed,” said Nicole Cecich, Gardant's senior director of financial accounting. In other words, the organization needed a single source of truth with the power to transform financial planning operations throughout the entire organization. Enter Solver.

How did Solver perform against expectations?

Executive directors across the organization have given Solver rave reviews. “We’ve heard nothing but praise for the reports that we provide,” said Cecich. The team’s ability to efficiently create a variety of different reports, focused on either single communities or the business as a whole, has been a game-changer. And updating those reports to incorporate new data is a breeze, too.



In what ways did Solver improve critical business processes?

Gardant’s old approach to budgeting—opening and editing Excel files for each individual community any time changes needed to be made—was slow and imperfect, with one error enough to throw off the entire process. With Solver, the Gardant team is in total control. “We can make adjustments one time that’ll impact all budgets,” said Cecich. That ability, paired with greater and faster reporting functionality, has drastically improved efficiency.

What are some of the key benefits from implementing Solver?

Thanks to Solver, Gardant’s analysis team can zoom in on various operational and financial metrics and compare performance across facilities and ownership groups. “We can understand why one community would be outperforming another,” said Cecich. That deeper level of insight not only enables better strategic planning, but also boosts collaboration across the entire organization. When reports can be easily generated (and re-generated), they can be easily shared across all levels of the company, from the operations department all the way up to the C-suite.

THE RESULTS

What has the return on investment been so far?

Having all of their budgeting, data, and reporting tools in one place has saved Gardant’s team countless hours, said Cecich. It’s also reduced risk, eliminating the possibility of one wrong keystroke throwing off the entire organization’s budgets. “I’ve heard nothing but wonderful things about Solver,” both from people who work with it directly and those who simply benefit from its clean and thorough reports, said Cecich. “They know what we’re able to do with it and rave about it.”



How was the experience with implementation, training, and support?

Gardant began working with Solver at the beginning of the pandemic, not an easy time for a business to implement any procedural changes, with many employees working from home and adjusting to a new normal. But Solver’s training team delivered. “Our trainer for Solver, John Stravos, was excellent,” said Cecich. “He was always available to help us. We had tremendous support from him.”

How does Solver play into Gardant’s future xFP&A plans?

At present, Gardant uses Solver for budgeting and portfolio-wide reporting. But the sky’s the limit as the team grows and gets up to speed with the full power of xFP&A technology. In the future, Gardant executives would like to use Solver for forecasting and budget modeling comparisons. Cecich’s advice for other companies considering a relationship with Solver: “Really think about how you’re going to use it not just at this point in time, but also how you’re going to use it in the future.” The opportunities are endless, since Solver grows with you.

