



NEWS RELEASE

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Baptist Health and River Garden Partner to Provide Enhanced Senior Care in Jacksonville

Jacksonville, FL, May 03, 2012 – River Garden Hebrew Home for the Aged, a not-for-profit Jacksonville senior services organization with a 66 year history of excellence in elder care, and Baptist Health, northeast Florida's most comprehensive healthcare system, announce today that they have formed a strategic alliance to enhance the care of clients and residents of the River Garden community.

Effective May 1, Baptist Health physicians began providing primary care to residents of River Garden Hebrew Home, the 180-bed skilled care nursing facility within the River Garden community. Providing medical care at the facility are Anna Orman, MD, Anthony Malacaman, MD, and Olga Wells, ARNP.

Later this year, services will expand to include providing medical care to residents of The Coves, River Garden's 80-unit senior independent living community; River Garden's Adult Day Care program; and to River Garden employees.

River Garden Chief Executive Officer, Martin Goetz, explains that the alliance between Baptist Health and River Garden is a natural progression of a relationship that has existed between the two organizations for many years. "The majority of our clients and residents, as well as our staff, use Baptist Health and the majority of our admissions come from Baptist. We are building upon an organic relationship that has grown, especially since the opening of Baptist South in 2005, which is the nearest hospital to our community."

According to Goetz, the primary benefit of partnering will be enhanced communication and better coordination of care from one setting to another. "This new alliance with Baptist Health will increase our ability to provide smooth transitions for our residents because the doctors are from the same organization as the hospital." Goetz adds, "Baptist Health is positioning itself to responsibly meet the needs of the aging baby boomer population and so is River Garden."

Joe Mitrick, president of Transitional Care at Baptist Health, says, "We are fortunate to have high quality post-acute care facilities like River Garden serving the health care needs of seniors in our community. Baptist shares a mutual goal with River Garden of comprehensively addressing the physical, cognitive and social issues that older adults face. Our collaboration with River Garden will enhance the care of seniors at both organizations."

He adds, "Our alliance with River Garden is another way we are working with other mission driven organizations to provide the finest care to seniors in the community. Baptist Health's creation of AgeWell Institute with its soon-to-open Center for Senior Health is another way we are enhancing care coordination and quality of life for seniors."

About River Garden

River Garden is a not-for-profit, mission-driven community agency offering an array of elder care programs and services on a 35-acre campus in the Mandarin area of Jacksonville. Sponsored by the organized Jewish community, they serve residents from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds while maintaining an environment supportive of Jewish identity and informed by Jewish values. River Garden is a five-time recipient of the prestigious Florida Governor's Gold Seal Award for Excellence in Long-Term Care.

The River Garden campus includes the River Garden Hebrew Home for the Aged, a 180-bed skilled nursing facility; The Coves, an 80-unit independent senior living facility; River Garden Home Health Care, a Florida licensed home health agency; Adult Day Care, open seven days a week; The Therapy Center, providing outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies; and the Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center, a not-for-profit post-secondary school which trains students for careers as certified nursing assistants. For more information, visit www.rivergarden.org.

About Baptist Health

Baptist Health is a faith-based, mission-driven system comprised of [Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville](#) and [Baptist Heart Hospital](#); [Baptist Medical Center Beaches](#); [Baptist Medical Center Nassau](#); [Baptist Medical Center South](#); and [Wolfson Children's Hospital](#) – Jacksonville's only children's hospital. All Baptist Health hospitals, along with [Baptist Home Health Care](#), have achieved Magnet™ status, an international quality designation that recognizes excellence in patient care.

Baptist Health also includes cardiology and cardiovascular surgery services; a comprehensive cancer center; orthopaedic institute; women's resource center; neurosciences, including neurosurgery and two Joint Commission-certified stroke centers; a full range of psychology and psychiatry services; outpatient facilities; urgent care services and a network of primary care physicians' offices throughout Northeast Florida. For more information, visit www.e-baptisthealth.com.

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