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## **Standing Room Only As The Coves Turns 18**

*Jacksonville, FL, December 5, 2012* – The Coves Independent Living Retirement Community celebrated its 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary Wednesday. The new Clubroom was packed, as Coves members, along with friends and guests, enjoyed a delicious array of hors d'oeuvres and were entertained by The Jazz Police.

The Coves, part of River Garden Senior Services, was added to River Garden's Mandarin campus 18 years ago. At that time, most retirement communities required a large, up-front payment prior to moving in. There was an obvious need in the Jacksonville community where active, vital seniors could live an elegant yet affordable lifestyle.

The plan, from the beginning, was to provide a truly independent retirement rental community with no large down payment. While so many retirement communities still require large sums of money to move in, the original Coves model continues to this day.

The focus for Coves Members was to provide a high level quality of life. "The Coves was to be a place where Members live and interact with each other", said Dorothy Verstandig, Director Emeritus of The Coves, speaking at the 18<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. "It was to become a community where learning takes place, where people are active and engaged, where they have fun." Today, classes are held which are taught by outsiders and residents alike. Members have taught each other calligraphy, knitting, basket-making; they enjoy music, current events, reflexology and many other activities.

### **About The Coves**

The Coves is an independent living retirement community consisting of 80 garden apartment homes. The community, located at 11501 Old St. Augustine Road in the Mandarin area of Jacksonville, FL, offers comfort, security, fine services and maintenance-free clubhouse living.

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