

# River Garden grows with expanded adult day care and therapy

**Posted:** October 12, 2012 - 11:46pm | **Updated:** October 13, 2012 - 12:10am

J



Provided By River Garden

The ground floor of River Garden Hebrew Home's new 10,000-square-foot facility includes an adult day care with an expanded kitchen.

By **Dan Scanlan**

Jacksonville's River Garden Hebrew Home had only four retirees calling it home when it was started 66 years ago in Riverside.

Now growth at its 180-bed nursing home and 80-unit retirement community has mandated a 10,000-square-foot addition to be unveiled Monday evening at its campus at 11401 Old St. Augustine Road.

The new two-story adult day care and therapy center's \$7 million cost was raised over two years, much from a core group of half-million-dollar donors who "started us really well," development director Kathy Osterer said. David Stein was the biggest donor, giving \$1 million.

"Stein ... will dedicate the newest part of the building in memory of his grandmother, [Rose Stein] a founding mother of River Garden," said Osterer, who began volunteering and fundraising there 20 years ago.

The Ladies' Hebrew Sheltering Aid Society built the first River Garden in 1946. Building drives allowed expansion for a growing population that reached 192 by 1969. Relocated to its 37-acre Mandarin site in 1989, it has a nursing home, skilled nursing and short-stay rehabilitation, The Coves retirement center and Alzheimer's and dementia care.

But the adult day care and therapy units needed room for a growing population, so plans were drawn up to expand it.

The ground floor of the new building allows the day care to grow from seven to 30 patients with a ceramics studio, kitchen, patio and garden. The 5,000-square-foot second-floor therapy center has private rooms overlooking the lake and room for more outpatient care.

The fundraising also allowed for renovation of the original 21-year-old building with expanded pharmacy, conference rooms, nursing stations and refurbished residents' rooms.

Monday's 6:30 p.m. grand opening includes a ribbon cutting and facility tour for donors and guests.

River Garden is also preparing for its 20th anniversary gala fundraiser at 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Renaissance Resort at World Golf Village. Tickets range from \$175 per person up to a \$15,000 Emerald Benefactor for a table of eight with proceeds to help pay the nonprofit nursing home's Medicaid difference, Osterer said.

Dan Scanlan: (904) 359-4549

Read more at Jacksonville.com: <http://jacksonville.com/news/metro/2012-10-12/story/river-garden-grows-expanded-adult-day-care-and-therapy#ixzz2B5UqV7Ep>