



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## RIVER GARDEN REACHES MANDARIN MILESTONE!

*Jacksonville, FL, December 10, 2014* – It is difficult to imagine that 25 years has passed since River Garden Hebrew Home for the Aged relocated from its original 3-acre site on Stockton Street in Riverside to its new home on the beautiful, 37-acre Mandarin River Garden Senior Services campus.

In just one day, December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1989, staff, board members and more than 300 volunteers assisted the 167 Stockton Street residents move, with all their belongings, to the new Mandarin facility. By 3:13 PM an announcement came over the PA system that everyone was now “at home” in their new residence. At the time of the move, it was reported to be the largest relocation of nursing home residents anywhere in the nation.

In the ensuing 25 years since the relocation, River Garden Hebrew Home has undergone many changes, including: a new name - River Garden Hebrew Home/Wolfson Health and Aging Center; the addition of home and community based services, such as Adult Day Care and Home Health Care, to enhance the concept of a “home without walls”; a new 10,000 square foot wing which includes the Frisch Family Pavilion downstairs - home to Adult Day Care and Jewish Life and Volunteer Services, and the Bernard and Alice Selevan Pavilion upstairs, home to one of the largest, and certainly one of the most beautiful Rehab and Therapy gyms in all of Jacksonville.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014, in celebration of this Silver Anniversary, the River Garden staff were treated to a barbecue luncheon, served by members of River Garden’s Administration team: Marty Goetz, CEO, and Jim Richman, COO.

### About River Garden

River Garden Senior Services is a not-for-profit, mission-driven community agency offering an array of elder care programs and services on a 37-acre campus in the Mandarin area of Jacksonville. Sponsored by the organized Jewish community, River Garden serves clients from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds while maintaining an environment supportive of Jewish identity and informed by Jewish values. In addition to being a seven time recipient of the Gold Seal Award, River Garden is a five-star rated community by AHCA and CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) and a recipient of US News & World Report’s “Best Nursing Homes” recognition in 2013 and 2014.

The River Garden campus includes: River Garden Hebrew Home, a 180-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation facility; The Coves, an 80-unit independent living community; River Garden Home Health Care, a Florida licensed and Medicare certified home health agency; River Garden Rehab, providing short-stay rehabilitation and outpatient physical, occupational and speech therapies; River Garden Adult Day Care; The Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center, a Florida licensed not-for-profit post-secondary school providing continuing education for staff, and classes to train students for careers as Certified Nursing Assistants; and River Garden Foundation, an integral part of the River Garden community, providing financial support to the River Garden system of senior services.

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[Lo-res version of supplied photo]

**CAPTION:**

During the Silver Anniversary celebration, staff members James Ritter and Suada Muminovic enjoy having lunch served by Jim Richman, COO, and Marty Goetz, CEO.

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