

# FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION



2020  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

  
**RIVER GARDEN**  
SENIOR SERVICES





“Honor thy Father and thy Mother, that thy days may be long upon the earth which I the Lord give thee.”

Dear Friends,

This Annual Report to the community is unlike any other in the 75-year history of our agency. No one could possibly have imagined early last year that “life as we’ve known it” would come to a screeching halt. COVID-19 wrought havoc upon the entire country, but nowhere more so than on seniors’ campuses.

From the beginning of the pandemic, we promised to communicate reliably and clearly with everyone. When things were going well, we shared it; when things could have been better, we shared that, too. We hope you found those communications helpful and informative.

Beginning in February 2020, before there were confirmed U.S. cases, and throughout the year, we ramped up and managed enhanced inventories to fight COVID-19, investing more than \$400,000 in supplies for infection control. We spent countless hours adjusting our care systems and staff to reflect a new normal, driven by an unwavering goal of enhancing resident safety and infection control.

In March, emergency orders issued by Governor Ron DeSantis shut down the campus to all family visitors. It was especially stressful to enforce artificial barriers between residents and their loved families, all in the name of “protecting seniors.” Staff quickly and eagerly responded by helping our residents make video contact with loved ones — not a perfect substitute but still a great comfort to residents and their families. A measured reopening of family visitation occurred in late Summer, allowing us to implement a restricted program for family visits. Those rules continued through the end of 2020 and into the new year.

During the year, clinical and administrative staff participated in a statewide Leading Age Florida consortium, helping us remain fully aligned with incredibly fast-moving regulatory changes around COVID-19. We also participated in daily community agency Zoom Meetings facilitated by the Federation which were designed to support the work of all local agencies and synagogues, and senior management met twice weekly with the presidents of our four Boards for updates.

Last March, we were forced to postpone the annual meeting of River Garden Senior Services and the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of River Garden Hebrew Home. Subsequently, the event was turned into a virtual meeting held in April during which we thanked Susan Cohen, who completed her service as board president of River Garden Hebrew Home, and welcomed Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Goldberg as her successor. All other board leaders continued for another term. Through the remainder of the year, all of our board and committee meetings have been held virtually. We hope that sometime in 2021 we will again be holding in-person board and committee meetings on campus.



We are delighted to report that during 2020 *Newsweek Magazine* identified River Garden Hebrew Home for the Aged as the #1 skilled nursing facility in the State of Florida, and that throughout the pandemic Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) rated us with 5 stars (highest possible) in every category they measured.

During COVID we suspended all outpatient programs including outpatient therapies, adult day care and rentals at The Coves, and shut down our short-stay, post-acute care program. We opened up a specially designated COVID-19 unit so that we could properly care for seniors requiring that level of care on our campus. At one point over the summer, we had more than 50 open nursing home beds and nine open apartments at The Coves. By the end of the year the situation had improved; we project that it will continue to do so through the coming year.

Unfortunately, for the first time in River Garden’s history, we had to lay off staff. Those remaining often found themselves doing work outside of their regular duties; no staff is doing exactly the work that they were doing prior to the arrival of COVID-19.

The overwhelming majority of our nursing home residents, Coves Members, and staff received the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer) at the end of the year with the second dose scheduled for mid-January 2021. We are grateful to Walgreens for working with us in scheduling vaccine clinics for our residents and staff, and are pleased that 97 percent of our residents have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

*(continued on page 4)*



Kathy Osterer retired in December following 22 years as River Garden’s Chief Development Officer. She was replaced by Christina Levine, who formerly served as the University of North Florida’s director of major gifts. And, it was announced that Martin Goetz will step down as River Garden’s Chief Executive Officer at the annual meeting on March 21, 2021. He will be succeeded by Mauri Mizarahi, who previously served as River Garden Administrator.

During the course of the pandemic, many people stepped up to help us sustain a degree of normalcy on our campus and we are deeply grateful to all of them. Special mention and thanks to our colleagues at the Jewish Community Alliance (JCA) and the Jewish Community Federation and Foundation of Northeast Florida (Federation) who helped us manage our guardhouse, including screening of individuals seeking entry to the campus, and who grocery shopped for members of The Coves. Thank you to all of them.

As life begins to return to normal, both on our campus and around the country, we look forward to fully restoring our programs and services, especially outpatient programs that were shut down during the pandemic. And as elder care continues to evolve, forever impacted by events of the last year, River Garden’s longstanding commitment is to remain both flexible and focused on meeting the needs of seniors in our community. With your help and financial support, we will do just that for generations to come.

We’re looking forward to the future as we prepare to celebrate River Garden’s Diamond Anniversary, mindful of our responsibilities as stewards of this remarkable community asset. A future where our beautiful Mandarin campus will once again be a bustling arena of Jewish life, where multiple generations routinely gather and engage each other in an environment supportive of our traditions and values.

We hope you enjoy our 2020 Annual Report to the community.



Gloria Einstein  
President  
River Garden  
Senior Services



Lawrence Goldberg, MD  
President  
River Garden  
Hebrew Home



Dennis Lafer, MD  
President  
The Coves at  
River Garden



Sandy Zimmerman  
President  
River Garden  
Foundation



Martin Goetz  
CEO  
River Garden  
Senior Services



Over the last 75 years, River Garden has refined, transformed and bonded itself into the solid organization we know today. This “diamond” among senior care providers has what it takes to stand the test of time as it passes from generation to generation.



2020 BEST NURSING HOME  
#1 Not-For Profit  
IN FLORIDA  
NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE



BEST RATINGS FOR  
SHORT-STAY REHAB  
LONG-TERM CARE  
US NEWS & WORLD REPORT



2019 RECIPIENT OF  
THE JOINT COMMISSION  
GOLD SEAL OF APPROVAL®  
FOR NURSING CARE CENTER ACCREDITATION  
AND POST-ACUTE CARE CERTIFICATION

## OUR MISSION

### To provide...

a wide range of quality, cost effective elder care services in residential, outpatient and community based settings.

### To create...

a comfortable, caring and dignified home for the frail elderly serving both rich and poor with excellence.

### To serve...

people of all faiths, while maintaining an environment supportive of Jewish identity and informed by Jewish values.

### To act...

as a valuable educational resource in elder care for the entire community.



# TEAMWORK

## Change Was The Only Constant

**M**aintaining adherence with federal and state rules and regulations governing skilled nursing facilities is nothing new for River Garden. In a typical year, changes are somewhat limited and include areas such as payment, staffing levels, resident rights and the physical environment — all with the focus on improving quality, cost and experience. During 2020, COVID-19 changed all that, and the changes kept coming.

Beginning in March, as COVID emerged, so did a daily barrage of changes: including orders from the Governor and guidance from Florida Emergency Management, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), CMS, the Department of Health and others. To keep up, River Garden's Emergency Operations Team — comprised of departmental leads across the agency — met seven days a week along with regulatory experts to discuss the changes and plan the cascade of information to staff, residents and families.



“Our expectation is always mastery of procedures. COVID was such an unknown entity and immense stressor; adding to that stress was the continuous pursuit of mastering these new skills and protocols in a very short period of time.”

— **Bernadeth Palompo, BSN, RN,**  
**Assistant Director of Nursing**  
**and Infection Preventionist**

**16** Large Binders Filled with COVID-19 Timeline, Changes & Documentation

**22** Emergency Orders from Governor DeSantis in 9 Months



*Pictured: Mauri Mizrahi,  
Marty Goetz & Bobbie Jo Mentz*

**1,530**  
**TOUCHPOINTS**

via Emails, Newsletters,  
Town Halls, Huddles &  
Weekly Zoom Meetings

“Through the pandemic, protecting our residents affected all areas: supplies, visitation, resident care, dining and meal delivery, therapy, and even procedures for the influx of medical waste. Each update brought an avalanche of requirements, and nearly every change impacted who was involved in the process.”

— **Mauri Mizrahi, Associate Administrator**

“Building a more robust infrastructure for communication, at all levels and in multiple ways — for staff, residents and families — was necessary, beneficial and will be one of many changes we embrace moving forward.”

— **Bobbie Jo Mentz, Associate Administrator**

## Safety: Priority Number-One



and caution escalated, the need for more intensive personal protective equipment (PPE) increased exponentially.

The chase was on — between tracking down new vendors, wiring money, buying out gas station alcohol wipes, or driving to the Jacksonville Fairgrounds to pick up supplies from Florida's Emergency Management Services, River Garden staff were focused on providing protection to keep people safe.

**A**s stories about COVID-19 emerged prior to the pandemic hitting the U.S., River Garden became concerned about the disruption of global supply chains. This prompted a decision to increase basic, non-perishable supplies on hand in order to withstand a potential shortage. The first order in February included items like gloves, basic surgical masks, briefs, pads, alcohol wipes, paper towels and toilet paper. Little did anyone know that the dearth of supplies would reach such stunning proportions throughout most of 2020.

Prior to COVID-19, it was rare to see an N95 mask at River Garden — that level of infection control protection was not something called for often, if at all. However, as evidence of COVID transmission grew

*“Early on, River Garden was able to place an initial emergency order to acquire 30,000 surgical masks, 200 isolation gowns and N95 masks through a consortium put together by the Association of Jewish Aging Services.”*

**— Betty Sorna, Chief Financial Officer**

Not only were supplies scarce, costs were through the roof. At one point, N95 masks that typically cost 73 cents were more than \$3 each, if they could be found at all. Finally, toward Fall 2020, production leveled-up and the flow and cost of supplies began to normalize.

*Pictured: Carina Bautista conducts fit-testing for N95 mask with Brianna Bush*

**200** Sanitizing Dispensers  
Installed Across Campus

Infection Control Supply  
Costs in 2020:

**\$400,000**

Versus a Typical Year:

**\$50,000**



*Pictured: Ben Rayo and  
Francesco Rayo with  
Custom-Built Screen*

6

Hours for Plant Operations  
to Engineer and Create Two  
COVID-19 Isolation Units

237

Porch Visits Through  
Custom-Built Safety Screens

## COMMITMENT

### Loving Residents to Life

As soon as COVID-19 cases were reported within the State of Florida, River Garden began to implement enhanced safety measures to protect vulnerable seniors residing on our campus. In early March, screening at the guardhouse, and increased hand hygiene and environmental cleaning seemed like understandable inconveniences to ensure a COVID-free campus.



A week later, the number of positive cases rose across our state and surrounding counties. Federal and state guidance for health care facilities, especially nursing homes, required us to minimize activity on the campus, including restricting all visitors, volunteers, guest dining, community programming and non-medical transport.

Remarkably, the River Garden Hebrew Home did not experience a positive COVID-19 case among staff or residents until the end of June. The staff, already on heightened alert, went into overdrive.



Within a matter of hours, Assistant Director of Plant Operations Ben Rayo, along with his team, configured, repurposed and insulated an unused area of the Rehabilitation wing to serve as a COVID-19 Care Unit.

“This has been such a sad time without the usual level of activity at River Garden. We all wanted to do something to help. I am so proud to have supported the clinical care team and our residents during this time.”

— Ben Rayo, Assistant Director of Plant Operations



# COURAGE

Within the 8-bed COVID unit at River Garden, along with a second 8-bed unit built a week later, amazing stories of courage, commitment and love emerged. Just as suddenly as the COVID units were built, so were strong COVID clinical care teams, one led by 20-year nursing veteran Joy Agger, RN.

To keep patients and other employees safe, Joy's mighty care team truly operated as an isolated unit. They only interacted with one another and never worked in any other units or spaces during the active COVID season. However, the rest of the River Garden team wouldn't let them feel alone in their effort to care for these frail residents. They sent the COVID team meals, snacks and treats, along with words of encouragement and gratitude.



Like true heroes, day in and day out, the COVID care teams kept the focus on their mission: caring for and loving patients back to health.



Not only were the nursing teams a lifeline for these patients fighting COVID, nearly as important were the relationships they built with patients' worried family members and loved ones. At its peak, the COVID unit was caring for nine patients at one time. Regardless of the quantity, these caregivers made a point to try and call every patient's family every day, just to touch base and provide a status update. To this day, Joy and her special team continue to check in on their former COVID patients' progress and take great pride in the care they provided during 2020.



“Some of the first steps to preparing the COVID unit were figuring out what would be necessary to maintain the safety and intent of the isolation unit. Things we take for granted on a typical care unit — laundry, food delivery, garbage pick-up — all required a different process for a closed unit team. Once we figured those things out, our small team became a well-oiled machine that was fueled by the kindness, concern and support from the rest of our River Garden colleagues.”

— Joy Agger, RN, COVID-19 Care Unit Team lead and recipient of the 2021 Minnie Schreiber Staff Leadership Award

*Pictured: Joy Agger and Morgan Langtry*

**18** Recovery Parades From the COVID Unit

# RESILIENCE

## Embracing a New Normal

Every aspect of River Garden's system was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As CDC guidance dictated increasingly restrictive policies, every River Garden resident, family member, employee and partner entered unknown territory. Changes forced families to communicate differently and employees to work creatively; most noticeable was the uncommon quiet of the usually bustling campus.

Change is difficult for most people; for older adults, and particularly those whose liveliness depend on daily interactions, support and affection, these changes felt crippling. The necessity of constant masking alone brought on a series of challenges in communication for residents hard of hearing or those who may rely on lip reading and facial expression for context. However, as necessity is the mother of invention, teams across River Garden got to work creating solutions that would maintain a semblance of quality of life.

**Kari Bell, Communications & Marketing Director**, made it her mission to keep the campus connected. In addition to facilitating regular updates regarding COVID, she led efforts to bring virtual programming to resident rooms, encourage greetings from



“River Garden's rehab gym was closed forcing us to change how we conducted our therapy sessions. Physical, occupational and speech therapy moved to one-on-one treatments, often in a resident's room. On top of navigating a modified environment and needing to adjust exercises, communication became a significant challenge because we had to wear masks. Sometimes therapists videotaped instructions and used whiteboards so they could write back-and-forth to answer patients' questions.”

— **Francesca Santos, PT, Rehabilitation Program Director**



*Pictured: David Wagner with Kari Bell*

community members, and offer one-on-one training to learn Zoom and other computer-based applications. Many “students” are now adept at connecting with their loved ones as well as handling personal needs like banking, shopping and telehealth online.

“Of all the people who have tried to teach me how to use the computer, Kari is the only one who's been successful. She gave me the courage to take my laptop out of the drawer and helped make it more comfortable to use. It's opened a whole new world for me! I've learned to do email and can look up information on the internet, and it's so much fun to Zoom with my sisters every week. I am even looking into getting a smartphone.”

— **David Wagner, Member of The Coves**

**630**

Facetime Calls Completed with Residents & Families

**54**

High Holiday Videos Received from Families

**46**

Virtual Programs Broadcast for Residents



# SELFLESSNESS

## Transcending the Moment

“That’s not my job” is a phrase you’d never hear uttered at River Garden. During 2020, teams across our campus pivoted, individuals stretched out of their comfort zones and everyone stepped up. Every employee gained a new perspective and an even greater appreciation of one another.

Campus-wide testing for COVID-19 through St. Vincent’s Mobile Health Ministry required every employee’s support for the safe and orderly transport of residents.



“Several of us who transitioned as CNAs worked the 3 - 11 p.m. shift because that’s where the need was. I got to know a lot of the staff in completely new ways and saw how differently everyone was dealing with the experience — whether with their own families and personal lives or the general fear and stress of COVID. When we would take short breaks for dinner, it was an opportunity to provide moral support. Throughout this year, the family-like culture of River Garden really shined.”

— **Lisa Poremba, ADC, CNA,**  
**Life Enrichment Services Director**



To support Nursing staff, the entire Life Enrichment team transitioned as CNAs throughout the summer months, supporting resident’s feeding and personal care needs.

Development staff helped prepare individualized PPE packets, delivered meals to resident rooms and facilitated porch visits among families. Social workers also helped residents connect with families through FaceTime and Zoom visits.

Employees weren’t the only people stepping up throughout 2020: volunteers, donors, Jewish agency

*Pictured: Resident Ben Talpalar  
with Lisa Poremba*



partners, corporations and health systems across the community contributed goods and funding along with their time and support. River Garden received hundreds of thank-you cards, gifts, meals and PPE for our staff; Buddy Boxes, plants and greeting cards for residents; and grant funding that enabled the deployment of technology to keep us all connected ... the outpouring of goodwill and encouragement was uplifting and always seemed to arrive just when we needed it most.

“The Jewish community dedicated support to River Garden throughout the pandemic. Nearly 40 JCA staff were trained to assist with screening at the front entrance, and a rotating cast of staff and volunteers from the JCA and Federation have provided grocery and personal shopping to keep members of The Coves safe.”

— **Mauri Mizrahi, Associate Administrator**

**60**

Days of Daily  
Guardhouse  
Screening with  
the Help of JCA

**300**

Personal Shopping  
Shifts Filled by  
Jacksonville Jewish  
Community Volunteers



# STEWARDSHIP

## River Garden System Financial Review

This past year has been unlike any other in the history of the agency. The entire River Garden system has been significantly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning in March, The Home's census was significantly impacted by our aggressive efforts to minimize the risk of inadvertently admitting a COVID-19-positive resident. A specially designated 18-bed COVID-19 unit was established in the event that a resident tested or was suspected positive for the virus. Additionally, the campus was closed to visitors resulting in our Adult Day Program, outpatient therapy services and off-campus Home Health Care program closing. The restrictions also impacted our ability to rent units at The Coves.

COVID had a significant impact on operations. Occupancy at the nursing facility dipped to 79 percent, a record low, and occupancy at The Coves was 95 percent. The River Garden Foundation canceled the River Garden Classic, and the annual River Garden Foundation Gala became the "No-Go" Gala.

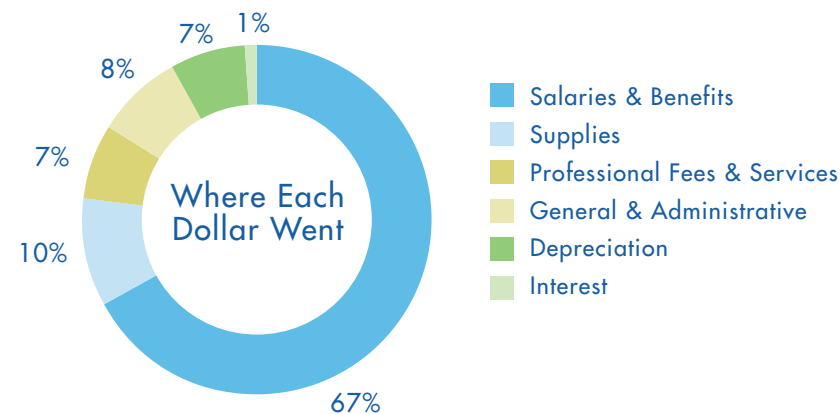
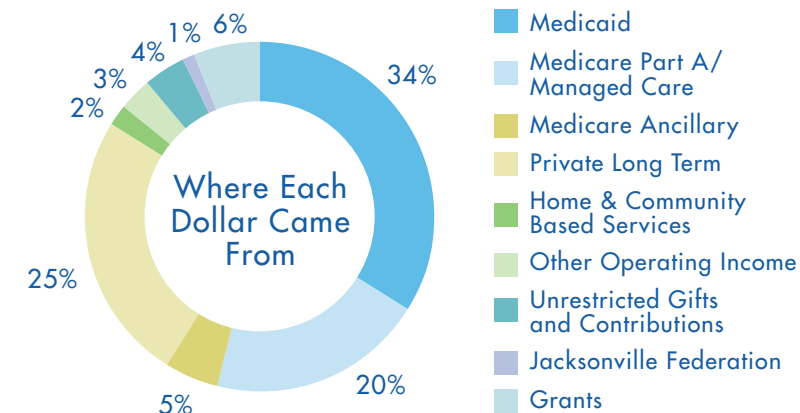
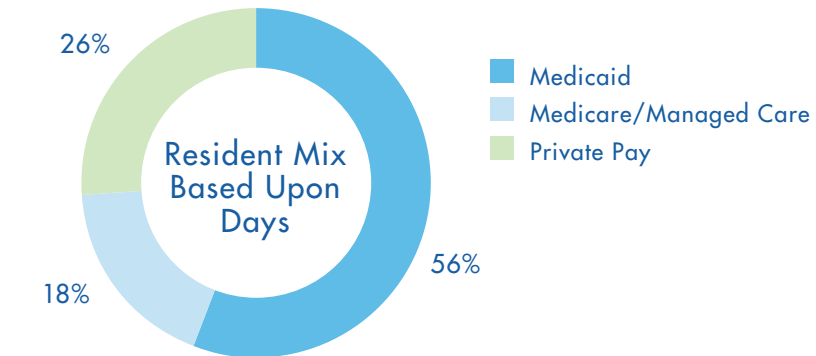
It cost \$23.4 million for River Garden Hebrew Home's daily operations, including \$400,000 in COVID-related infection control supplies, a decrease of 10 percent over 2019. Depreciation, amortization of bond issuance costs, and a State of Florida "Quality Assessment Fee" added \$2.6 million to what are normally considered operating expenses totaling \$26 million. In addition, there were \$410,000 in capital expenditures and \$566,000 in bond principal payments.

Approximately 67 percent of our expense went toward employing a full-time equivalent staff of 300.

Sources of operating funds included \$23 million from service and other operating revenues, \$556,000 from charitable contributions, \$147,000 from an allocation by the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Jacksonville and \$594,000 from River Garden Foundation. The River Garden Foundation also contributed \$90,000 for staff training.

River Garden received \$3.5 million in funding through the federal CARES Act. The Home received a loan of \$1.9 million from the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), \$1.5 million in Health and Human Services (HHS) relief funds and \$26,000 from a City of Jacksonville grant in support of infection control supplies. The Coves received \$118,000 from a PPP loan. We project that the PPP loans will be forgiven in 2021, as we have met the requirements for loan forgiveness. The support we have received through the various federal programs has been vital to the system's financial stability as we've dealt with the clinical and financial impacts of COVID-19.

System-wide it is important to note that charitable and philanthropic support continues to subsidize the care of the medically indigent Medicaid beneficiaries who account for 56 percent of all resident care given at River Garden.



## OFFICERS & STAFF 2020

### River Garden Senior Services

Gloria Einstein, *President*  
 Janis Fleet, *Vice President*  
 Harvey Schlesinger, *Vice President*  
 Marsha Pollock, *Secretary*  
 Edward Grenadier, *Treasurer*  
 Martin A. Goetz, *Chief Executive Officer*  
 Betty Sorna, *Chief Financial Officer*  
 Mauri Mizrahi, *Associate Administrator*  
 Bobbie Jo Mentz, *Associate Administrator*  
 Carol Thomas, *Chief Nursing Officer*  
 Kathy Osterer, *Chief Development Officer*  
 Elliott Palevsky, *Chief Executive Officer Emeritus*

### River Garden Hebrew Home

Lawrence Goldberg, *President*  
 Randy Kammer, *VP, Co-Chair of Admissions*  
 Debby Kaye, *VP, Co-Chair of Admissions*  
 Bruce Horovitz, *VP, Co-Chair of Admissions*  
 Morrie Osterer, *VP, Chair of House*  
 Rachelle Gottlieb, *Secretary*  
 Cindy Demri, *Treasurer*

### River Garden Foundation

Sandy Zimmerman, *President*  
 Susan DuBow, *Vice President*  
 Jeff Edwards, *Vice President*  
 Adam Frisch, *Vice President*  
 Debbie Parker, *Vice President*  
 Andrea Mail, *Secretary*  
 Michael Price, *Treasurer*

### The Coves at River Garden

Dennis Lafer, *President*  
 Michael Price, *Vice President*  
 Malcolm Bloom, *Vice President*  
 Shirley Bielski, *Secretary*  
 Susan Cohen, *Treasurer*

### River Garden Auxiliary

Mimi Kaufman, *President*  
 Ellen Rubens, *Fundraising*  
 Michele Steinfeld, *Membership*  
 Nancy Mizrahi, *Treasurer*  
 Betty Fastenberg, *Recording Secretary*

# GENEROSITY

## River Garden Foundation

Throughout its 75-year history, River Garden has benefited from tremendous philanthropic support and community engagement. As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, we extend appreciation to the countless individuals, families, foundations, corporate and community partners who have contributed significantly to the success of our fine agency.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 transformed the operations of the Home and our staff remained dedicated to the safety and well-being of our residents. The overwhelming support of the community was evident in 2020, with 1,174 friends making gifts during this challenging time.



Although we were unable to host our two annual signature events in person, the **River Garden Foundation Gala** and the **River Garden Classic**, each still raised significant proceeds. The River Garden Foundation Gala, co-chaired by Allison and Ken Jacobs, raised **\$324,924** and the River Garden Classic, co-chaired by Mark Lodinger and Tom Harris, raised **\$89,577**.



“Kathy’s leadership and devotion to the staff, residents, and volunteers of River Garden is only surpassed by the loving attention she gives to all who know her. She is a special friend to everyone and we thank her for all she’s done!”

— **Shirley Bielski** (pictured left with Kathy Osterer)

This is a true testament to our volunteer leadership and the generous commitment of donors. The result of these united efforts was another successful year of fundraising.

Gifts to the River Garden Foundation support a number of areas including: innovative nursing care, personalized life enrichment activities, holiday celebrations, kosher dining, advanced medical technology, and a warm, welcoming homelike environment.

Those who built River Garden understood that it is vital to invest in the future. For more than 30 years we have honored donors who want to be part of River Garden’s legacy; donors who include River Garden in their will, name River Garden as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, make a gift and in exchange receive guaranteed lifetime income from River Garden, or contribute to the Endowment Fund. These types of gifts are just a few ways to secure our loving care community’s future.

Each year, legacy gifts and our endowment help support River Garden’s services and programs that allow residents and clients to maintain the dignity they deserve as older adults. The Guardians of Tomorrow program recognizes those who have indicated to us that River Garden Senior Services is included in their estate planning or who have made a gift to us in their will. We are grateful to the people listed below who have committed to creating a lasting legacy at River Garden for the next 75 years and beyond.

### Guardians of Tomorrow

Janet & Norman Allison	Miriam Frist*	Josephine J. Kaplan*	Sondra Resnikoff
Josh Ashby	Rose Galin*	Mimi & Martin Kaufman	Ina Richter
Helen Avchin	Esther & Samuel Galinsky*	Mildred Kaufman*	Jeanine Rogozinski
Karen & Frank Backilman	Sheldon Gendzier	Marilyn & Marvin Kay*	Della Rosenberg*
Jack I. Bear*	Susie & Marty Goetz	Susan Kay	Howard Rosenblatt
Jack Becker*	Michael Gold*	Louis Kottle*	Lorry & Paul* Rothstein
Sally & Paul* Becker	Rose Lee Gold*	Lillie Ray Levy	Harriet* & Edwin Safer
Vera & Morton* Benjamin	Hilda & Sol* Goldman	Rose Lind*	Marion Schaul*
Frances Berney*	Marguerite Goldstein*	Deanna & Michael Lissner	Bessie Schriebman*
Gary Bloom*	Sara E. Green	Jill & Mark Lodinger	Hyman Selber*
Rene Bonnett*	Chary & Michael Greenburg	Alberta Marks	Hannah Setzer*
Becky & Benjamin Bromberg*	Edwin Greenfield*	Gail Meltzer	Beth & Mark Shorstein
Laverne & Andy Cantor	Ann & Ed Grenadier	Irma Michelson*	Marilyn & H. C.* Sims
Susan & Norman Cohen	Doris Gross*	Mildred Mizrahi*	A. C. Sinclair*
Ronald S. Cohen	Polly & Arthur Gutman*	Evelyn & Ralph Mizrahi*	Irene Sloat
Marilyn & Bernie Datz	Ray Hardy*	Edith Mohre*	Michael Solloway*
Nancy* & Robert Dean	E.J. Helow	Minnie Moss*	Shirley Stone*
Theresa & Fred Dietsch	Irma & Joe Horn*	Vincent Narducci*	Martha & Fred Tromberg
Anne DuBow*	Leah Horovitz*	D. N. Oppenheimer*	Brent Turbow*
Raymond Ehrlich*	Freda Isenberg*	Carole & Lawrence Ort	Dorothy & Harry* Verstandig
Gloria Einstein	Robert Jacobs*	Lucille & Irving Oster*	Dora Weil*
Sue & Ron Elinoff	Sam Janover*	Kathy & Morrie Osterer	Sylvia L. & Isidore Weiss*
Helen & Joseph Ellis*	Evelyn & Milt Kaden	Donna & Elliott Palevsky	Beth & Howard Wolpoff
Rose & Sidney Entman*	Frank Kahn*	Anne & Ed* Presser & Family	Arlene & Evan Yegelwel
Dorrie & Lanny Felder	Randy Kammer	Neil N. Presser*	Eunice & Barry Zisser
Leonard Fink*	Louis Kaplan*	Sue & Ned Price	
Phyllis & Robert* Fischer	Irving Kaplan	Susan Price	
Lilo* & Harry Frisch	Isador Kaplan*	Barbara & Harold* Resnick	

*\*Of Blessed Memory  
List current as of 12/31/20*



Jack Bazinsky  
Barbara & Stephen Bazinsky  
BDO USA, LLP  
Beaches Car Wash  
Beaver Street Fisheries, Inc.  
Beaver Street Foundation, Inc.  
Glenda & Matthew Becker  
Estelle & Stuart Beckerman  
Catherine Beckham  
Sidney & Bill Behrens  
Helga Behrmann  
Mary Beissinger  
Hannah & Morris Bendit  
Jean Benjamin  
Vera Benjamin  
Patty & Guy Benrubi  
Miriam Howard & Roger Benson  
Ellice Berg  
Donna & Greg Berger  
Florence Berkow  
Deborah & Neal Berkowitz  
Berman Brothers, Inc.  
Eleanor & Charles Berman  
Carla & Lawrence Bernard  
Sarah & Richard Bernard  
Constance Best  
bestbet Jacksonville  
Beyond Home Health Care Services  
Shirley & Abe Bielski  
Janice Bing  
Cydnee Blattner  
Agnes & Mitchell Bloch  
Christine & Andrew Block  
Lauren & William Block  
Lois Blonder  
Linda & Philip Bloom  
Kerrie Bogardus  
James Boneau  
Josephine Bonnett  
Teri & Fred Borakove

Joyce & Charles Borgida  
Aura & Barry Bort  
Michael Bossen  
Robert Bossen  
Samuil Boutman  
Mary Olivia & Steve Bowers  
Sandra Bradley  
Carol Bramer  
Michelle Branly  
Judy Branting  
Joan Bray  
Linda & David Brewer  
Debbie & Lathun Brigman  
Jane & Arthur Briskman  
Ruchel Broadman  
Harriet & Ernest Brodsky  
Mel Brodsky  
Becky Bromberg  
Leslie & Solomon Brotman  
Janet & Ralph Brown  
Rebecca & Michael Bruce  
Roberta Bryce  
Caren & Dennis Buchman  
Stephen Buchman  
Lori & David Burman  
Mason Burnham  
Olga & Arthur Burns  
Sheila & Thomas Burrell  
Burrito Gallery Gate Parkway  
Rose & Bernard Bush  
Laura & Howard Buss  
Dee & Walt Bussells  
Barbara & Jan Butensky  
Sally Butensky  
Colleen Canning & Theodore Glasser  
Laverne & Andrew Cantor  
Paula Caplan  
Leslie Carmel & David Golding  
Catherine Carryl  
Ana & Barney Castellon

Angelo Cavallaro  
Sherry & Gerald Chait  
Margot Chartoff  
Kim & Mark Cheiken  
Lois & Alan Chepenik  
Bonnie Cherry  
Merle & Ronald Cherry  
Susan Cherry  
James Chiado  
Rita & Gerlad Chiappetta  
Mary-Virginia Christakos  
Gayle & Charles Chupp  
Pauline & Howard Churwin  
Judy & Charles Cibene  
David Clark  
Victoria Clemons  
Philip Cline  
Marcia & Craig Cohen  
Daniel Cohen & Lou Matuyza  
David Cohen  
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300 Firehouse Gift Cards and 700 Gili's Lunches Contributed Toward Staff Appreciation

“Never have we been prouder of River Garden's staff for the excellent job they're doing under the most difficult of circumstances. We all look forward to the time when this dreadful virus is conquered, so that all of us can get back to 'normal.' Thank you for your perseverance.”

— **Larry Goldberg, MD, President,**  
**River Garden Hebrew Home**

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“Even though my mother has been a resident, in Development, I am normally far-removed from resident care. I got a very unique view of the care perspective ... to see the impact of simple daily interactions like bringing a meal and chatting with a resident — now, I really understand how much it means.”

— Michelle Branly, Development Associate

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“The staff’s pleasure in watching residents leave our COVID unit and go back to their rooms ... their feelings of accomplishment and the joy on their faces knowing they helped people survive this terrible virus was inspiring to watch.”

— Mauri Mizrahi, Associate Administrator

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During 2020, Chief Nursing Officer Carol Thomas was recognized as Leading Age Florida 2020 Executive of the Year. Staff nominated Carol because of the outstanding leadership she has shared with our agency. She cares deeply about our residents and her staff, and is now managing through this pandemic.

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“We had a bright end to the year, celebrating with our first round of vaccines. Our friends at Walgreens coordinated and supplied our vaccine clinic. With their support we had a stellar vaccine adoption rate and we are so grateful.”  
— **Bobbie Jo Mentz, Associate Administrator**



“River Garden will come out of COVID-19 as a stronger, more robust care community. We have worked well together; we’ve shown each other that we can accomplish anything — anything, as long as we are all working together in common purpose.”

— Marty Goetz, CEO

Jerome Weidner  
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Short-Stay Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation

Long-Term Nursing & Memory Care

Adult Day Program

Outpatient Therapy

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