



# A Case Study from Retirement Unlimited, Inc.

## Community Highlight

- Located in FL and VA
- 13 Independent & Assisted Living Communities
- 6 Inspiritas Memory Care Facilities
- Serving over 1,753 residents

## RUI University Program Highlights

- Over 36,000 registered attendees from 2019 through 2021
- Courses range from history, to music, to technology, to culinary
- Leverages a range of technology including Eversound
- Expanding to support families of Inspiritas residents with Dementia

## Overview

RUI University is Retirement Unlimited's lifelong learning and continuing education program available to residents in their independent and assisted living communities. This program offers a large variety of courses - from music history to international cooking - with most of the courses held in a series spanning a 3-month semester. This is not just an education program, it's a wellness program. Retirement Unlimited finds that having these regularly scheduled courses on the calendar each week gives residents something to consistently look forward to and gives them a reason to get up in the morning and connect with others in the community.

Retirement Unlimited has dedicated classroom space in each of their 13 independent and assisted living communities to hold their RUI University courses. These classrooms include various technologies including large TVs, speaker systems, smart tables, and Eversound's group listening systems. By using Eversound and other technology, Retirement Unlimited is able to provide engaging classes that lead to more purposeful living.

## The Challenge

When the COVID-19 pandemic forced Retirement Unlimited to move their RUI University classes virtually, the issue of untreated hearing loss among their residents became very evident. This led Retirement Unlimited to engage Eversound during the height of the pandemic in order to keep residents engaged in virtual classes.

## The Solution

As it became safe to resume in-person courses, Retirement Unlimited communities discovered that there were many more applications for the Eversound listening systems beyond use for the hearing impaired residents during masked and online classes.

Some of the most popular courses throughout all their communities are music history and art, in which they use Eversound to create an experiential aspect. One way this is done is through their Auditory Learning Labs. These labs use Eversound technology to enhance their classes with experiential learning. For instance, RUI University has offered courses on space that included guest speakers from NASA, followed by an auditory learning lab called “Sound of Space” where residents used Eversound headphones to listen to different sound waves from the planets.

Using Eversound for the auditory component of RUI University’s learning labs is beneficial for all course attendees, not just those with hearing impairment. Eversound allows them to mask the background noise, and really focus on the experience. As a result, the residents become more engaged in all aspects of the course.

Retirement Unlimited finds that technology is a critical component of providing accessible and engaging classes to their residents. Specifically, RUI University staff notes an increase in active participation from residents in both virtual and in-person courses with the use of Eversound listening systems.

## Results

Retirement Unlimited finds that offering engaging continuing education courses provides their residents with an increased sense of purpose. Having regular scheduled courses on topics of personal interest gives residents a reason to leave their room and engage within their community. And this sense of purpose is improving the quality of life for their residents.

Furthermore, the use of technology for enhanced learning in the RUI University classrooms has ultimately led to an increase in attendance. From April 2019 through December 2021, Retirement Unlimited has had a combined 36,355 registered attendees for their RUI University courses across 13 communities in both Virginia and Florida.

RUI University continues to grow and expand to improve the lives of their residents. Most recently, Retirement Unlimited has begun to expand the program into their 6 memory care communities, known as Inspiritas. In these communities, the program is offering dementia and other health education courses to the family members of residents with dementia.



Eversound has been a wonderful addition to our programming within all of our communities. It is truly amazing to see when a resident puts the headset on and it opens up a new world for them. Our Life Enrichment Directors have been using the Eversound programs to create engaging activities for our residents, and have also been utilizing during our signature programs like RUI University and RUI FIT.

— **Madison Espiritu,**  
RUI University Coordinator,  
Retirement Unlimited, Inc.