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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**State Senate Candidate Rachelle Aud Crowe Tours Senior Services Plus**

*Crowe highlights importance of funding local senior services*

ALTON, IL – Today, 56<sup>th</sup> District State Senate candidate Rachelle Aud Crowe toured Senior Services Plus, a non-profit United Way agency that provides wellness and enrichment programs to thousands of area seniors. Crowe spoke on the importance of supporting organizations like Senior Services Plus.

“From its Meals on Wheels Program to its foster grandparent program, Senior Services Plus is enriching the lives of our seniors every day,” said Crowe. “Seniors are the foundation of our community. They have worked hard all their lives, and deserve to have secure, independent, and fulfilling retirements. It is critical Illinois government supports seniors and organizations like Senior Services Plus.”

Senior Services Plus offers non-medical in-home care, transportation services, Meals On Wheels, counseling and financial assistance, a Foster Grandparent program, travel program, and a Wellness and Fitness Center. In 2017, it provided direct services for 12,114 individuals and participated in indirect services for 12,601 individuals in Madison and St. Clair counties.

Approximately 80% of Senior Services Plus’ budget comes from state funding and contracts. During the 2015-2017 state budget impasse, Senior Services Plus in Madison and St. Clair struggled with layoffs, and cuts to programs like Meals on Wheels.

“It is important for community members to know what services and resources are available so that they can continue to be an active part of Alton and age in place with the help of Senior Services Plus,” said SSP Assistant Executive Director Theresa Collins. “In addition, elected officials need to know what services, supports, and resources are available to their constituents and how these low cost, money saving, life enhancing programs are critical and cannot afford to be cut.”

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