

Media Release

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AGING CARE CONNECTIONS ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF LONGTIME LEADER, DEBRA VERSHELDE AND WELCOMES DESIREE SCULLY AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After 44 years of dedicated service, Aging Care Connections (ACC) announces the retirement of longtime Executive Director Debra Vershelde. Under her leadership, ACC experienced considerable growth in the services offered to older adults, impacting the lives of thousands in our communities.

Ms. Vershelde began her tenure at Aging Care Connections in 1977 working directly with older adults and their families in their homes. She served as the agency's Social Service Director for 14 years and was later appointed the Executive Director of Aging Care Connections in April 1999.

During her time as Executive Director, Ms. Vershelde worked to strategically expand the organization's range of services and influence in the community. Under the leadership of Ms. Vershelde, Aging Care Connections repositioned itself from a multi-purpose senior center to a provider of individual and group services that focused on addressing the complex needs associated with aging. Additionally, Ms. Vershelde oversaw the expansion of ACC's service area. This allowed the organization to serve over 9,000 older adults per year. To sustain this growth, Vershelde sought to evolve ACC's tactical partnerships.

Desiree Scully, Aging Care Connections' current Director of Social Services, will be appointed as Aging Care Connections' Executive Director as of October 1, 2021. Ms. Scully brings over 30 years of experience in the field of aging to this position, including holding the Senior Services Director at Oak Park Township Senior Services for 16 years. "I look forward to building upon Debbie's legacy as Executive Director and bringing Aging Care Connections into our next 50 years of service. As a leader of providing programs and services to older adults, it is my goal to further integrate ourselves in the community and continue to cultivate the precious relationships we have with our partners," said Ms. Scully.

Ms. Scully was chosen through a highly competitive hiring process. ACC's Board of Directors formed a Search Committee to find Ms. Vershelde's replacement in the most thoughtful way possible. Speaking on behalf of ACC's Board of Directors, Board President Ed Gervain stated, "Debbie has been a dedicated employee for over 40 years; and has served as an excellent leader of our organization for over 20 years. With her retirement, the "torch of leadership" will be passed to Desiree Scully. We look forward to her leadership in advancing Aging Care Connections service to the communities we serve and the partnerships with funders and strategic partners that are so critical to our success."

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About Aging Care Connections: *Aging Care Connections is a private non-profit organization based in La Grange, IL that serves 38 communities from the Lyons, Proviso, Riverside, Leyden and Norwood Park townships. The mission of Aging Care Connections is to enrich the quality of life in our community by providing older adults and their families with guidance and support that enhances the ability to age well. To learn more about Aging Care Connections, visit www.agingcareconnections.org.*