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**Senior Connections' Circle of Friends Giving Program Launched  
Event Kick-off Brings Seniors and Community Leaders Together**

(Atlanta, Georgia, October 15, 2009) – Senior Connections, a leading provider of support services to area seniors, launched its Circle of Friends giving program at a reception held at former DeKalb County CEO Liane Levetan's Toco Hill home.

Mrs. Levetan, former Georgia State Senator, DeKalb County Commissioner and two-term DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer, has been an ardent supporter of Senior Connections since its inception in the early 1970s. She served as the Chair for the organization's capital fundraising campaign that resulted in the purchase of Senior Connections' current headquarters building on Peachtree Road in Chamblee.

"The mission of Senior Connections is to maximize independence for seniors through advocacy, information and services. Allowing older area citizens to age gracefully within their own homes by providing needed services such as meal delivery, home repair and in-home care is better for seniors and makes stronger communities. I whole-heartedly support Senior Connections' mission and their work in fulfilling it."

Senior Connections currently prepares and delivers more than 2,000 meals daily to Atlanta area and Macon clients. The non-profit agency has the capacity to produce 5,000 meals per day and continues to seek grants, governmental funding and private donations to increase capacity and meet the growing needs of local seniors.

"Eleven percent of seniors in Metro Atlanta live below the national poverty line," Charles Miller, chairman of the board for Seniors Connections stated. "Our volunteers and staff are often the only contact

– and hot meal – a housebound individual will see on any given day. There are waiting lists of seniors in need. We believe our Circle of Friends giving program will help us end their waiting.”

According to Debra Furtado, chief executive officer of Senior Connections, Circle of Friends is designed to span the various grants and donations that change with political tides and economic forces. In speaking at the reception, she spoke of one client whose fate is currently up in the air.

“The gentlemen asked one of my staff ‘But what will happen to us in January?’ He was worried because he and his wife were dependent on our Meals on Wheels program for one hot meal a day. The grant that funds their meals only lasts through the end of 2009. Forty other seniors are receiving meals through that grant as well.”

Donations received through the Circle of Friends will be used to build a sustainable fund to pay for services such as meals, in-home personal care and home repair and accessibility programs that can bridge the gap between programs ending and new dollars or programs arriving through new grants and public and private donations.

“No one, especially seniors who have worked hard all their lives, should go hungry when Senior Connections has effective and efficient programs in place and only need the dollars to increase the number of meals they serve or the in-home clients they help,” Mrs. Levetan told those in attendance at the kickoff reception.

For a donation of \$5000 or more, a contributor is named a “Friend Forever.” Contributions of between \$2500 and \$4900 is awarded “Best Friend” status and “\$1000 to \$2400 is a “Dear Friend.” Other classifications are “Good Friend” and “Friend.”

Food served at the reception was prepared by the chef and staff of Senior Connections’ Connections Café, located 5238 Peachtree Road. The café is yet another service provided to area seniors, along with six neighborhood senior centers, educational classes and travel excursions.

Area leaders and elected officials also in attendance at the Circle of Friends reception included DeKalb County Sheriff Thomas Brown, Doraville Mayor Ray Jenkins and Mayor Pro tem Donna Pittman, and DeKalb County Commissioners Jeff Rader and Sharon Barnes Sutton.

Individuals interested in donating to Senior Connections and joining its Circle of Friends may do so by logging onto [www.srconn.org](http://www.srconn.org) or by calling 770-455-7602.

Since leaving public service, Mrs. Levetan has been active in civic and cultural affairs and her public service career has been characterized by a dedication to neighborhoods, issues of children and elderly citizens.

#### **About Senior Connections**

Since 1973 Senior Connections has served the counties of the metropolitan Atlanta area with programs and services designed to help seniors "age in place" in the comfort of their own homes. The nonprofit agency provides Meals on Wheels, home repair, in-home care and neighborhood centers to area seniors. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, services are available to anyone over the age of 60, regardless of income level. In 2009, Senior Connections began providing educational classes and travel excursions as well. Senior Connections also offers services and information to help families cope with the many dilemmas that can arise as parents, grandparents, friends, and loved ones "come of age."

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