**Press Conference – January 6, 2017, 10AM**

Please join Rape Advocacy Counseling and Education Services (RACES) for a press conference regarding new leadership and the status of the agency. Announcement will start promptly at 10AM, followed by an opportunity for questions.

Date: Friday, January 6, 2017

Time: 10AM

Location: RACES Office, 300 S. Broadway, Lincoln Square Mall, Suite 154A

**FOR RELEASE ON JANUARY 6, 2017 AT 10AM**

**Rape Crisis Center Hires New Executive Director to Rebuild Agency**

*Urbana, IL, January 6, 2017* –RACES is thrilled to announce Adelaide Aime as the agency’s new executive director. Under Aime’s leadership, RACES will begin the process of rebuilding the agency and restoring vital services to Champaign, Ford, Douglas, and Piatt Counties.

Since June 1, 2016, RACES has offered only crisis intervention services: the 24-hour crisis hotline and medical advocacy. The dedication of 60 volunteers, the Board of Directors, the Interim Assistant Director, and Medical Advocates were essential to the continuation of these critical services.

Before the service reduction, RACES also offered free counseling, public education and training, and legal advocacy. The agency intends to strategically restore all services in a sustainable manner. Currently, RACES is seeking a sexual violence counselor to restore counseling services in the near future.

Support from local donors, community organizations, and the United Way of Champaign County has allowed RACES to maintain core services and sustain a vision for rebuilding.

**About Adelaide Aime**

Aime began her career in social services in 1984 as a rape crisis volunteer, where she volunteered for 5 years as a hotline volunteer, board member, and ultimately president of the board of directors. She has been working as a social services administrator since 2006. Most recently, Aime worked as the executive director at the Children’s Advocacy Center of Champaign County, an agency promoting healing and justice for children who have been sexually abused. Her past experience includes working with survivors of sexual assault, people experiencing severe mental illnesses, and children who have experienced abuse. Aime holds a Master of Social Work from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

**About Rape Advocacy Counseling and Education Services**

RACES is a community-based rape crisis center serving Champaign, Douglas, Ford, and Piatt Counties in East-Central Illinois. In 2015, RACES served more than 37,408 individuals – ages 3 through adult. They provide free, confidential services to anyone who has been affected by sexual assault, abuse, or harassment. They also offer public education and training to schools, employers, and other organizations throughout our service area.

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