

GRANDPARENTS



**RAISING
GRANDCHILDREN**
INFORMATION CENTER
OF LOUISIANA

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Grandparents Raising Grandchildren to Host Free Conference April 27

BATON ROUGE, LA. – The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Information Center of Louisiana (GRGICL) will host a **free** conference on **Friday, April 27, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** at the Holiday Inn South Hotel at 9940 Airline Hwy. Grandparents and Louisiana Relatives as Parents (LaRAPP) from across the state are invited to attend. Registration begins at 8:00a.m. Donna Britt from WAFB TV - Channel 9 will be the Mistress of Ceremony.

The conference is free for grandparents and others raising relatives' children. Providers of services to these grandparents are encouraged to attend. To register, please go to www.lagrg.org, or call 225-346-8712, or email lagrginfo@yahoo.com. **Participants must register by April 20** to receive lunch and a tee shirt.

The theme for the conference is "Safety at Home and in the Community." The Keynote speaker is **Clementine Barfield, Founder and President of Save Our sons and Daughters (SOSAD)**. Save Our Sons and Daughters (SOSAD) an internationally known non-profit organization that worked to change America's culture of violence to a culture of peace from 1987 through 2005. She started this movement in the aftermath of her two teenage sons being gunned down in a Detroit school related incident where 15 year old Roger was critically injured and 16 year old Derik was killed.

The GRGICL priorities include grandparents' physical and mental health, and the safety of their families. With increased use of cell phones and computers, we want to make sure the grandparents are up-to-date on the benefits and pitfalls of both, for adults and children. We will also share resources that are available to them, so they know where to seek assistance. Workshops include sessions on: child abuse prevention, assertiveness and stress management, suicide watch and prevention, parenting in 21st century, turning bullies into buddies, and recreation tips for relaxation. The combined expertise of the speakers will lead to information packed sessions for grandparents and other Louisiana Relatives as Parents (LaRAPP).

Additionally, grandparents and others raising relatives children will also have an opportunity to pose questions about the legal process to a team of lawyers during a panel discussion led by lawyers. The Louisiana Children's Trust Fund is the premiere sponsor. Other sponsors include Senator Sharon Weston Broome, Peoples Health, Amerigroup, Entergy Corporation, Holiday Inn, Catholic Charities Diocese of BR and LSU Service Learning Center. Sponsorships for this conference are still available.

For more information about the conference, please contact the project manager, Pat Robinson, at 225-335-0322.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Louisiana is a non-profit organization dedicated to offering both information and support to grandparents raising grandchildren and other relatives serving as parents to children who are not their own. We partner with other organizations and agencies that provide training and support to empower grandparents and kinship caregivers.

In the United States, 7% of children under 18 live in households headed by grandparents; and in Louisiana 11% of all children live with their grandparents (only Hawaii and Mississippi have higher rates- 14%). Louisiana has the third highest percentage in the United States of children living with their grandparents. These grandparents save the state money by taking in the children (over 121, 200) and keeping them from becoming wards of the state.