



## **NEPA Intergenerational Coalition**

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference Slated

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Intergenerational Coalition announces the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference. This year's theme is "Raising Our Grandchildren: Empowering the Intergenerational Family." The conference will be held on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Genetti's Hotel and Conference Center, Market St., Wilkes-Barre from 7:45 AM until 3:00 PM. The Conference is free and open to the public.

Grandparents raising grandchildren is nothing new. When parents have been unable or unwilling to care for their children grandparents have stepped in to keep these families together. Grandparents often report that what they need most is accurate information about existing programs and services available to their families. Many of these families need someone to guide and connect them to existing benefits programs, local support groups, respite care programs, and other helpful government and non-profit services. This valuable conference is co-sponsored by the Northeastern Pennsylvania Intergenerational Coalition and the Office of Senator Raphael Musto and connects grandparents and other relative caregivers with community organizations. The conference's primary goal is to help families obtain basic knowledge regarding available resources and supports; and learn about community systems, programs and eligibility requirements for services.

The 2009 conference will offer workshops and panel presentations on various topics including special legislation, grandparent advocacy, support and custody, communication issues, special education, stress reduction, internet safety, bullying, and family group decision making. The conference committee

has secured presenters and panelists from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania who are experts the various issues and challenges facing grandparents and relative caregivers.

If you are interested in additional information or would like to receive a brochure outlining the day's activities for this year's event, please contact:

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**Photo of Conference Committee Leadership includes left to right:** Joseph Clapps, Coordinator NEPA Intergenerational Coalition; Howard Grossman, Chairman NEPA Intergenerational Coalition; Senator Raphael Musto, Conference Sponsor; Joseph DeVizia, Executive Director Luzerne County Office of Human Services; Craig Lukatch, Conference Chairman and Director of Development at Wyoming Valley Children's Association.