|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***With this being our 1st Newsletter of 2021, we wanted to share some useful information with you. This information will be helpful to you when making decisions………***  If you have any questions, you can call our office at  321-631-7776 or visit our website at [www.grandparentsraisinggrandchildren.org](http://www.grandparentsraisinggrandchildren.org). We hope you can use some of this information……………  **Legal Assistance:** GRG has limited funding for Legal Assistance; However, we have been able to assist many of our members. At this time, we will have to put a temporary hold on this assistance, since some of our clients are not getting back to us with the results of their cases. It is especially important if you receive Custody, Guardianship or Adoption to let us know since our Grants require reported results.  It is also important to remember, if the Lawyers are not getting back to you, they are working on your case, along with other cases. They will contact you with any updates they may have as soon as they can.  **When you are getting your Grandchild(ren) from out of State:** Though challenging, please note; You cannot start Court proceedings until the child has been in Florida for at least 6 months, unless the child is disabled. If the child has been removed from their Parents by another State, you can request that Florida’s DCF request an interstate transfer. Although, this may not always be helpful it is worth the effort to try.  **Grandparents’ Rights:** There are no Grandparents’ Rights in the State of Florida. For this reason, we try to assist as many Grandparents as possible with Legal Assistance.  **Letter to Governor DeSantis:** We would like to send a letter to Governor DeSantis asking him to look into the ways the Department of Children and Families (DCF) conducts their business. We have more than a dozen articles on how DCF has mishandled cases. We would like your permission to include a list of all our members as approval of this letter. If you do not wish to participate, please contact us.  **Steps of Assistance:** When you seek assistance for services, it is particularly important for you to take notes. When you receive assistance with ACCESS Florida, remember you will need to recertify every six months.  **Aging Matters:** We have been fortunate to receive a grant from Aging Matters, however, part of the stipulation is, they will be contacting our clients. Please answer and let them know you are s=using our services.  **Did you know:** Many believe GRG is a Federally Funded Organization with unlimited funds. We are not. GRG relies heavily on the combination of Grants, Member Fees and Donations from Individuals and Companies and Fundraisers to be able to provide the Support and Services we do for our members. With over 2,000 Non-Profit agencies on Brevard County, Grants are extremely hard to get, so that leaves donations and fundraisers. This is where we need your help. Whether you are a member or someone who supports our efforts because you care. Please help us run more successful fundraising events throughout the year.  The major fundraiser for the past 5 years has been our Golf Outing. You don’t have to Golf to help! Golfers, Sponsors, Door Prize Donors and 50/50 chance takers are needed to ensure the success of these events. Sharing the information on your Social Media Pages, with Co-Workers, Neighbors and Family will get the word out so we can raise more funds. Since you do not have to be present to win, take a 50/50 chance for $10.00 and encourage friends across the country to do it too! |  |

**Upcoming Events:**

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES:**

We will have our School Supply giveaway August 2nd, 3rd and 4th at the GRG office in Rockledge.

Please call Natasha to reserve your backpack(s) by July 28th, 2021.

**6TH ANNUAL CHILD 1ST GOLF TOURNAMENT:**

October 2nd , 2021, at Turkey Creek Golf Club in Rockledge.

**Appointments and Office Visits:**

Please call before coming to the office, we do not want to inconvenience you by not being there. You can call 321-631-7776, 321-848-8006 or 321-506-9049 to make an appointment. Also, if you are running late or unable to make your appointment, please call to let us know.

**Support Group Meetings:**

We will resume in person Support Group Meetings, starting in September, there will also be a Zoom option for those of you that wish to join from home. Please contact Natasha to get on our email list so you can be sure to get the meeting invites.

We also added an extra Support Group meeting at the Sunflower House in Merritt Island.

**GRG of Brevard Co., FL., Inc.**

**2021 Newsletter & Information**

**Facts to Remember:**

* 1 in every 10 Students in the Brevard County School system is being raised by a Grandparent or Family member.
* 5% of the Children in Florida are living with Grandparents or other Relatives outside of the Foster Care System, 8,500 in Brevard County.
* *Grandparents Raising Grandchildren of Brevard Co., FL., Inc.* saves Brevard County $40M a year by keeping children out of the Foster Care System.
* Grandparents and Relatives raising related children save the State of Florida $1.6B a year.

**GRG of Brevard Co., FL. Inc.**

**123 Barton Blvd, Suite 102**

**Rockledge, FL 32955**