Protecting Children Target Of Project

The Lafayette Crime Prevention Advisory Committee has kicked off a "Child Protection Project" designed to reduce the involvement of children in crime, both as victims and perpetrators.

That was the announcement made at a news conference at the Northgate Mall McDonald's Restaurant this morning by CPAC spokesman Richard Brown.

"The Child Protection Project will focus on problems which create atmospheres in which children fall prey to or commit crimes in the United States," Brown said.

The project will focus on educating children and their parents on how to deal with potentially dangerous situations to which children are particularly vulnerable, and will offer fingerprinting of children. The fingerprints will be used primarily to assist police in missing persons investigations.

Stranger Danger

One component of the project is the "Stranger Danger" program, designed to alert children to the dangerous situations posed by strangers.

Another component is the "Friendly Foe" program, involving a presentation by a speaker from the Lafayette Rape Crisis Center to increase awareness of the danger that can come from relatives and friends, such as abduction and molestation.

The project will also involve presentations to each Parent-Teacher Association and (Continued On Page 5)

fingerprinting sessions.

Ken Holleman of the Lafayette Police Department said that further information on scheduling for the program can be obtained from Terry Anseman of the Lafayette Medical Auxiliary at 981-4438.

Program Grew

Lafayette's Crime Prevention Program began more than 10 years ago with a part-time crime prevention officer. Since then, the program has grown to have two full-time officers on staff helping to coordinate 70 programs aimed at crime prevention.

Program contributors are the Lafayette Medical Auxiliary, SLERC (232-HELP), Family Tree, Child Find, Rape Crisis Center, Lafayette Police Department and Dixie Photo.

Donations have come from Electrical Contractors, Inc., McDonald's and Southside Bakery. Listed as supporters of the program are La Crime Resistance Association, Acadiana Mothers of Twins, Bayou Girl Scout Council, COPS (Committee of Police Spouses), Insurance Women of Lafayette, Lafayette Board of Realtors, Lafayette Jaycees, Lafayette Kiwanis Club, Lafayette La Sertoma Club, Lafayette Parish School Board, City Auxiliary Police, Take A Stand and the Sertoma Club.