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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Renowned Identity Theft Expert Frank Abagnale Addresses Cobb**

*AARP ambassador shares tips to avoid scams and protect families from fraud*

**ATLANTA, GA (March 11, 2016)** — During the “Stealing Your Life” free fraud education event, AARP Fraud Watch Network ambassador, Frank Abagnale will share his expertise and insight to arm attendees with the knowledge and information on how to spot and avoid scams, and the importance of safely using social media so that they can protect their families. Abagnale, a former master check forger, inspired the 2002 Steven Spielberg film *Catch Me if You Can*. He has advised the FBI on how to outsmart con artists for over four decades.

As one of the world’s most respected authorities on identity theft, he will visit Cobb Galleria Centre, 2 Galleria Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30339 on April 12. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and takes place from 7-9 p.m. John Sours, Director of the Georgia Department of Law Consumer Protection Unit will also serve as a guest with Abagnale. Register for this free event: <https://aarp.cvent.com/stopscammersApril12> or calling 1-877-926-8300

There is a victim of identity theft every two seconds in the United States. Older Americans account for 10% to 13% of these victims, with more than 3.5 billion households affected. The 50+ demographic is the fastest-growing segment of computer and Internet users and, according to the FBI, this makes the segment a more likely target for Internet fraud. With the alarming rise of fraud among older adults, AARP Georgia serves as a watchdog and continues to expand efforts to educate and empower Georgians on the latest scams and con tactics used against victims.

“Through the AARP Fraud Watch Network we are able to provide free resources such as our toll-free hotline and scam tracker to help Georgians fight back against fraud and inform others in their community,” says Charima Young, AARP Georgia Associate State Director-Community Outreach. “According to the 2015 Consumer Sentinel Network Data Book, Georgia remains in the #2 slot for fraud complaints across the country, yet the state has moved from #5 to #7 for identity theft complaints. As part of AARP Georgia’s state priorities, fraud and identity theft education has become more accessible to Georgians with the help of volunteer facilitators.”

Today, more than 14,000 financial institutions, corporations and law enforcement agencies use Frank Abagnale’s fraud prevention programs. He has also written numerous articles and books including *The Art of the Steal*, *The Real U Guide to Identity Theft* and *Stealing Your Life*.

Abagnale warns that hackers likely already have many people’s identity records from the major security breaches that have occurred over the last two to three years. When hackers steal personal information in a major breach, they tend to warehouse that data for two years or more before they make it available in the criminal marketplace.

#### **About AARP**

AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into **Real Possibilities**, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse. We advocate for individuals in the marketplace by selecting products and services of high quality and value to carry the AARP name as well as help our members obtain discounts on a wide range of products, travel, and services. A trusted source for lifestyle tips, news and educational information, AARP produces AARP The Magazine, the world’s largest circulation magazine; AARP Bulletin; [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org); AARP TV & Radio; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish-language website addressing the interests and needs of Hispanics. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to political campaigns or candidates. The AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. AARP has staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org).

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