

**PRESS RELEASE**  
WAUSHARA COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

*Please consider this article as a news item for publication in your newspaper.*

“A six year old boy with Autism walks away from home with his puppy dog. An 80 year old woman with Alzheimer’s wanders from her home as family members are eating dinner. An 85 year old man with Alzheimer’s leaves his home on a hot and humid summer afternoon. And the stories go on and on ...

“Over 5,000,000 people in the U.S. have Alzheimer’s and approximately one in 166 children is diagnosed with some form of Autism. These numbers are only expected to sky rocket in the next 50 years. Well over 50% of these people wander and become lost. A lost person with Alzheimer’s, Autism or other related disorders represents a critical emergency. They are unaware of their situation; they do not call out for help or communicate appropriately and do not respond to people calling out to them. Nearly half of them will die and many can become injured or fall victim to predators if they are not located within the first 24 hours. The number of people, families and communities experiencing this risk will grow dramatically in the next few years.

“If you are not yet touched in some way by Alzheimer’s, Autism or a related disorder, chances are you will be within the next several years. You will find it among your neighbors, your friends, coworkers and their families, and perhaps within your own family.

“Citizens of Waushara County and the surrounding areas can rest assured knowing that there is a program available to help them handle these frightening situations and this program is called “Project Lifesaver”.

Project Lifesaver is an innovative rapid response program aiding victims and families suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders such as Down syndrome and Autism. By forming partnerships with public safety organizations

and local law enforcement, Project Lifesaver deploys specially trained teams with the most reliable technology available to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their families and caregivers.

Project Lifesaver relies on proven radio technology and a specially trained search and rescue team. Clients that are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the local Project Lifesaver agency that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locater tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1,100 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.

The Project Lifesaver bracelet is much more than a passive ID bracelet. It is a one-ounce battery-operated radio wrist transmitter emitting an automatic tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. The signal is tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the Project Lifesaver search team positively locates and identifies the person who has wandered away from home or a care facility.

Can you think of someone you know or love that could benefit from such a simple and reliable service such as Project Lifesaver?