

Project Lifesaver

...was established in April of 1999 as an initiative of the 43rd Search and Rescue Company of the Chesapeake County Sheriff's Office in Virginia. Project Lifesaver's mission is to use state of the art technology in assisting those who care for individuals with Alzheimer's and other Related Mental Dysfunction Disorders (ARMD) who become lost. These individuals include the elderly and even the youngest in our community who are afflicted with Down syndrome and Autism.

Alzheimer's Disease

People with Alzheimer's disease lose their ability to recognize familiar places and faces. Many of these people cannot remember their names or addresses. They may become disoriented and lost in their neighborhood or far from home.

It is not uncommon for a person with Alzheimer's disease to wander; many do repeatedly. This behavior can be dangerous, even life-threatening, as well as stressful for caregivers.

Autism

Many children with Autism do not understand danger and do not know how to react in such a situation. Because people with Autism have no identifying physical characteristics, their disability may not be immediately apparent to others. This means that police, firefighters, and the general public may expect responses that the child or adult with Autism may not be capable of. In fact, unexpected behaviors can be misunderstood and actually lead to an emergency.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)

Those who suffer from a TBI have difficulties with memory and processing information. Due to the injury, it is common for the person's brain function to change. The person may no longer be oriented to places or time. Therefore, they may wander randomly.

How Project Lifesaver Works

Rescue teams from the Delaware County Sheriff's Office are using radio technology to bring this effective life-saving system to our area.

People who are part of the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Delaware County 911/Communications Center that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes.



Thanks to the support of the O'Connor Foundation, The Delaware County Senior Council, and the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, the Alzheimer's Association of Northeastern New York, The Delaware County Sheriff's Office, and The Delaware County Office for the Aging are able to bring Project Lifesaver to Delaware County.

[Alzheimer's Association of NENY](#)

The Association offers a 24 hour helpline, family education, support networks, guides to local resources, a resource center, and private family care consultations.

[Delaware County Sheriff's Office](#)

The Delaware County Sheriff's Office provides professional, responsive and caring law enforcement services to all citizens in Delaware County.

[For further Information and inquiries about enrollment:](#)

Contact the Alzheimer's Association at (607)206-4514

**Call 911 if you are in
a Crisis**

**For additional
information call:**

**Alzheimer's
Association
607-206-4514**

Delaware County Project Lifesaver



**Protecting the
wandering and
bringing peace of
mind to families,
caregivers and
communities**