



## Project Lifesaver International

### Mission:

The primary mission of Project Lifesaver is to provide timely response to save lives and reduce potential injury for adults and children who wander due to a cognitive condition.

### Overview:

Termed the “*Gold Standard in Excellence*” throughout the special needs SAR community, Project Lifesaver was the first organization to significantly address the elopement issue among at-risk individuals, and since 1999, has been the only non-profit organization actively educating and equipping public safety agencies in the protection, search, and safe recovery of special needs wanderers.

The task of searching for wandering or lost individuals with Alzheimer's, autism, Down syndrome, dementia or other cognitive conditions is a growing and serious responsibility. Without effective procedures and equipment, searches can involve multiple agencies, hundreds of officers, countless man-hours and thousands of dollars. More importantly, because time is of the essence, every minute lost increases the risk of a tragic outcome.

Working hand in hand with trained law enforcement and other public safety agencies, Project Lifesaver saves time, money, resources, but most of all, SAVES LIVES!

While maintaining a 100% success rate, Project Lifesaver member agencies have had in excess of **3,400 successful rescues** since the program's inception – each individual found without significant injury! The search times for certified Project Lifesaver agencies have been reduced from hours, potentially days, down to minutes. Recovery times for Project Lifesaver agencies average 30 minutes, which is 95% less time than standard operations without Project Lifesaver.

Currently, the Project Lifesaver program is available in nearly 1600 public safety agencies across all 50 U.S. States & 7 Provinces in Canada.

### Key Components:

#### 1. *The Project Lifesaver Program:*

The method relies on proven radio technology and specially trained search and rescue teams. Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small transmitter on the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized frequency signal. If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area. The first responders will then use the client's individualized frequency to triangulate the position of the individual, in an effort to locate them & return them home safely.

Project Lifesaver is more than just a locating product and wearable technology; Project Lifesaver is a program that bridges the gap between first responders and their communities in an effort protect special needs individuals more comprehensively and in a cost-effective manner.

2. ***Cutting Edge Locating Technology:***

Project Lifesaver is in a constant state of research and development to ensure the latest and most effective technologies are being utilized by the program both in the prevention of wandering and the recovery of a client in the event of elopement.

3. ***Innovative SAR Methods & Techniques:***

Project Lifesaver has strategically designed methods and techniques for the specific use of recovering individuals with a cognitive condition. When applied by first responders these innovative strategies enable the most efficient rescue of an eloped client.

4. ***Community Policing Courses:***

Project Lifesaver provides first responders with a basic understanding of cognitive conditions, giving them the necessary tools needed to respond to an elopement and to assess and effectively manage the safe and comfortable return of an eloped client.

**Implementing & Sustaining the Program:**

Project Lifesaver International provides in-depth training for law enforcement and other public safety agencies on the use of specialized electronic search and rescue equipment, technology and procedures, as well as teaching rescuers how to communicate with people afflicted with cognitive conditions, all of which are essential to the successful rescue of missing persons who wander or otherwise become lost. They certify search and rescue personnel and provide ongoing management to participating agencies.

In addition, Project Lifesaver develops public outreach programs to educate others about the issue of wandering, and they constantly work toward developing public policy and effective law enforcement response to help save lives and continue in the effort of “bringing loved ones home.”

***In-Depth Training:***

- ☞ Training for a new agency includes two days of on-site instruction for up to 7 people in each new agency, provided by a Certified Project Lifesaver National Instructor or by PLI’s own staff.
- ☞ PLI also provides one-day training for up to seven officers to be trained as instructors and re-certify staff every two years.
- ☞ Each new agency will also receive training on Alzheimer’s disease and autism, as well as other conditions, to help when responding to a missing client, and to help facilitate a safe escort home.

***Ongoing Management:***

- œ Project Lifesaver ensures member agencies receive updated information on equipment, training, supplies, and marketing materials to continue their program in their communities and help surrounding agencies come on board.

***Public Outreach:***

- œ Project Lifesaver, as a non-profit organization, continually works with federal, state, and local governments to apply for grants and develop public outreach programs for communities throughout the United States.
- œ Project Lifesaver is endorsed by the Alzheimer's Foundation of America, the National Autism Association, the National Sheriff's Association, Pilot International, and many other organizations throughout the country.
- œ Project Lifesaver helps develop educational materials targeted at families and caregivers of wanderers, participates in numerous conferences and speaking engagement each year to spread the word about the service, and works with national organizations on an ongoing basis to help develop public policy.