



SUBMISSION FORM

All submission forms must include the following information. Separate submission forms must be turned in for each eligible program. **Deadline: July 1, 2023.** Please include this submission form with the electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

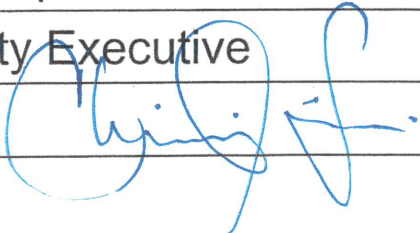
PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: Prince William County
Program Title: Project Lifesaver
Program Category: 3-Criminal Justice & Public Safety

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Amanda L. Thompson
Title: Lieutenant
Department: Prince William County Sheriff's Office
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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Christopher J. Shorter
Title: County Executive
Signature: 



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Glendell Hill
Sheriff

Date: June 22, 2023

To: Gage Harter, Virginia Association of Counties; Director of Communications

From: Lieutenant Amanda L. Thompson

Re: Achievement Award Nomination

I would respectfully like to nominate our Project Lifesaver program for the Virginia Association of Counties Achievement Award. While our Sheriff's Office offers numerous programs that benefit the community we serve; I find this one to be of particularly tremendous benefit.

Project Lifesaver International (PLS) is a non-profit organization that gives peace of mind to families and caregivers of community members who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. This population includes those diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome and many more. PLS is comprised of over 1,300 participating agencies across the United States, Canada, and Australia. In this nomination, I am only specifically referencing the Prince

William County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver program.

Every participant in the Project Lifesaver program wears a battery-operated radio transmitter that emits an inaudible pulse once per second in the FCC allocated and licensed 216 MHz frequency range. It closely resembles a wristwatch. In the event, a client wanders away from their home or care facility, trained deputies respond to the last known location along with other trained local participating agencies. Handheld and car mounted receivers are used by the trained responders to intercept the distinctive frequency assigned to that particular client. Utilizing the clients unique radio frequency, the first responders are able to acquire the client's location and are usually able to return them safely home within a matter of minutes. Prior to the creation of this technology, these types of searches could take hours, days, or longer and oftentimes resulted in devastating outcomes.

The need for this program is immeasurable. More than five million people in the United States have Alzheimer's and related cognitive disabilities; that number is expected to triple by 2050. It is estimated that at some point, more than half of these individuals will wander and become lost. These situations are critical. These individuals do not routinely ask for help, nor do they respond when someone is calling out for them. They also are not cognizant of dangers and could become injured or fall victim to the elements or predators if not located within 24 hours. The PLS program has been internationally recognized as an aggressive and proven program that saves lives. This is why we were one of the first local agencies to adopt the program and train our entire staff on the use of the equipment.

We believe in the value of this program as we're able to return individuals home safely time and time again.

Our Project Lifesaver program was developed in 2008; we started the program with a \$14,000 grant from Lockheed Martin which allowed us to purchase two sets of tracking receivers and enough transmitters to supply 15 clients. We quickly filled the 15 spots and wound up with a significant waiting list. From the very beginning, our Sheriff, Glendell Hill, expressed his desire to provide this program free of charge to our clients and their families, despite most other local agencies charging for the program. I am proud to say, that although the equipment and supplies are very expensive, we have funded this program from day one solely through grants, community donations, fundraising efforts, and sponsorships! Our program has continued to grow over the years; we currently have more than 40 clients in our PLS program and have served an additional 88 clients over the years! In addition, Master Deputy Bakalov has trained hundreds of first responders to become PLS Search Specialists; he has an active "trained" list of 201 deputies and officers from the police department.

Master Deputy Ilyan Bakalov is the coordinator of our program and has been for many years. He has given many informational presentations to local civic groups, religious groups, and large corporations to assist in obtaining donations to continue providing this program free of charge. He is also an instructor for Project Lifesaver and has assisted training not only our staff, but many officers with the Prince William County Police Department and other agencies who have reached out for assistance. He has been an

instrumental part of additional agencies starting Project Lifesaver programs of their own. The equipment is just one part of this equation, the training also encompasses creating relationships in the community. We provide information to families and give advice on how to better safeguard their homes to prevent wandering. We suggest adding safety features such as window and door alarms, pressure sensing doormats, etc. We also receive training in how to respond to people in crisis. Many times, individuals who wander may become disoriented, combative, and fearful when approached by first responders. Having a relationship with the clients and caregivers allows our deputies the ability to safely approach the client, gain their trust, and calm them for the ride back home.

An additional benefit to this program is that we are able to work closely with other area agencies when their clients go missing. We recently had an individual that was found wandering and had a PLS bracelet on but was not one of our clients. We contacted all adjacent jurisdictions and found him to be a client with Fauquier County Sheriff's Office; he was in our county visiting relatives when he became lost. We were quickly able to obtain contact information and return him to his frantic caregiver. All agencies with PLS receivers can enter the client's unique frequency to search for the individual. If we have a client who travels with their family to Walt Disney World in Orlando and becomes lost, the Orlando Sheriff's Office could obtain his/her frequency and search for the individual. The program is truly remarkable.

Project Lifesaver provides a basic model of how to organize an individual agencies program. Master Deputy Bakalov has taken that model and molded it to suit our community and our agency. Not only do we have tracking equipment available in all of our operations deputies' vehicles, but we also have tracking equipment available at each local police station. Master Deputy Bakalov has made himself available to any local agency inquiring about how to begin a PLS program, thus promoting intergovernmental cooperation. He assisted the Fauquier County Sheriff's Office and Warrenton Police Department with creating their programs and training their officers and deputies.

Since the inception of our program, we have utilized our Project Lifesaver tracking equipment to search for 32 missing clients; 30 of the clients were found in our jurisdiction and returned safely; one client boarded a bus and was located in New York City; and lastly, one heartbreaking search resulted in finding only the radio transmitter bracelet that had been removed from the client. That search resulted in criminal charges being placed against the caregiver of the client.

As I described above, this program is a crucial piece of serving the needs of the most vulnerable people in our community. Most everyone is impacted on some level by the many debilitating cognitive diseases and impairments listed above. Our work coordinating this program and involving other local agencies is commendable. We are very proud of our Project Lifesaver program and hope you will consider it worthy of an Achievement Award. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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Glendell Hill
Sheriff

Prince William County Sheriff's Office - Project Lifesaver Program Executive Summary

Project Lifesaver (PLS) is a state-of-the-art search and rescue program operated across the globe by public safety agencies. It is designed to assist individuals with cognitive impairments who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. This population includes those diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, and many more. The primary mission of PLS is to reduce search and rescue times of this at-risk portion of our community, helping to save lives and reducing injuries to those who wander or become lost.

Project Lifesaver clients wear battery operated radio transmitters, each with a unique frequency. If the client wanders, first responders are able to track the radio frequency using handheld and car mounted receivers to locate the missing individual and return them home safely. This technology enables us to return clients home within a matter of minutes. Prior to the creation of this technology, these types of searches could take hours, days, or longer and oftentimes resulted in devastating outcomes.

Our program was established in 2008; since its inception, we have operated it solely using grants, donations, sponsorships, and fundraising efforts thus making this a free service to the clients and caretakers. We are very proud of this program and the tremendous benefit it provides to the community.



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Prince William County Sheriff's Office – Project Lifesaver Program Brief Overview

Project Lifesaver (PLS) is a state-of-the-art search and rescue program operated across the globe by public safety agencies. It is designed to assist individuals with cognitive impairments who are prone to the life-threatening behavior of wandering. This population includes those diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, and many more. The primary mission of PLS is to reduce search and rescue times of this at-risk portion of our community, helping to save lives and reducing injuries to those who wander or become lost.

The Prince William County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver program was established in 2008. Since its inception, it has been operated solely using grants, donations, sponsorships, and fundraising efforts, thus keeping this a free service for our clients and caretakers.

Project Lifesaver clients wear battery operated radio transmitters, each with a unique frequency. If the client wanders, first responders are able to track the radio frequency using handheld and car mounted receivers to locate the missing individual quickly and return them home safely. This technology enables us to return clients home within a matter of minutes. Prior to the creation of this technology, these types of searches could take hours, days, or longer and oftentimes resulted in devastating outcomes.

We are very proud of this program and the tremendous benefit it provides to the community. We have assisted local agencies with developing their own PLS programs and have trained hundreds of deputies and officers as Project Lifesaver Search Specialists.



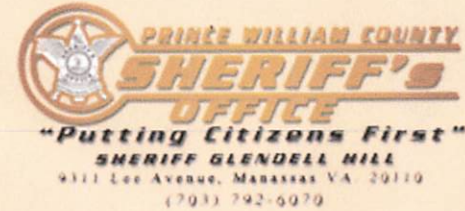
PROJECT LIFESAVER INTERNATIONAL

Project Lifesaver International is a non-profit organization that bridges the technology gap for "at risk" populations and public safety agencies. Their comprehensive program includes the equipment and training we use to quickly locate and rescue "at risk" individuals with cognitive disorders who are at a constant risk to the life-threatening behavior of wandering including those with Alzheimer's disease, Autism, and Down Syndrome.

www.projectlifesaver.org

SPONSORS WELCOME

Funding for our Project Lifesaver program is the result of private and corporate donations and grants. Staffing for the program is mainly volunteers, including our own deputies who voluntarily sign up to be team members in our rapid response search team. Donations are used directly towards the program equipment, rescues and expenses.



THE NEED

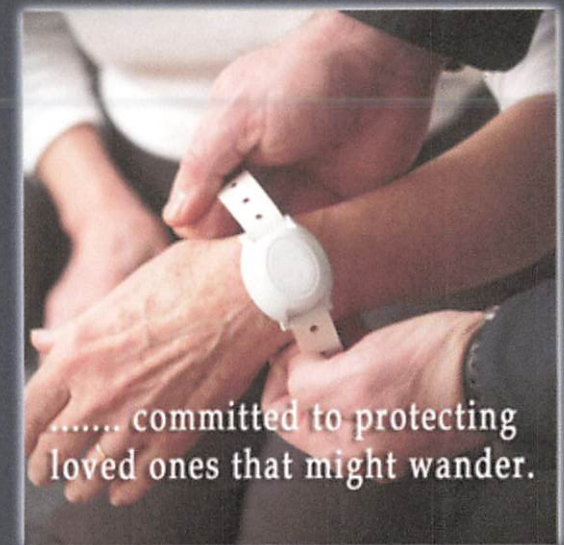
Over 5 million people in the USA have Alzheimer's and related disorders. That number will triple by 2050. Well over 50% of these people will wander and become lost. A lost individual with Alzheimer's and related disorders represents a critical emergency. They are unaware of their situation, they do not call out for help and they do not respond to people calling for them. Nearly half of them will die and many can become injured or fall victim to predators if they are not located within 24 hours.

The number of families and communities experiencing this risk will grow dramatically in the coming years. Project Lifesaver has become internationally recognized as an aggressive and proven program that saves lives. It is not a registry system. It is an active response to the problem of locating wandering adults and children before they fall victim to the elements, accidents or predators.

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GLENDELL HILL, SHERIFF

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MSTR DEP. I. BAKALOV
703-792-6110

www.pwcva.gov/department/sheriffs-office



..... committed to protecting loved ones that might wander.

Technology you can rely on. Protection you can trust.

PROJECT LIFESAVER INTERNATIONAL – PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ORGANIZATIONS & LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT PLEDGE THEIR SUPPORT FOR PROJECT LIFESAVER

- PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY
- MANASSAS CITY
- MANASSAS PARK
- ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION
- UNITED WAY
- VIRGINIA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
- NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

SPONSORS FOR PROJECT LIFESAVER

- FIRST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DALE CITY
- THE GIVING CIRCLE OF HERITAGE HUNT
- HERITAGE HUNT WOMENS ORGANIZATION

OUR OBJECTIVE

Project Lifesaver protects wandering participants and gives peace of mind to caregivers, families and communities. 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. Project Lifesaver deploys specially trained deputies with the most reliable technology available to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their families and caregivers.

We are bringing loved ones home quickly and safely...

HOW IT WORKS

Each participant in the Project Lifesaver program wears a battery operated radio transmitter that emits an inaudible pulse once per second, in the FCC allocated and licensed 216 MHz frequency range. In the event a participant wanders off, receivers are used by the rapid response search team of deputies and participating local authorities to intercept the distinctive frequency assigned to that particular participant to acquire their location and return them home in a matter of minutes. Without this innovative technology, this search could take hours, days, or even result in the worst case scenario.

THE TECHNOLOGY

The Project Lifesaver personalized wristband is much more than a passive ID bracelet. It is a one ounce battery operated 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. Because each wristband has a unique radio frequency, the Project Lifesaver rapid response search team positively locates and identifies the participant who has wandered away from their home or their care facility, facilitating the safe return of the participant.



CARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Prince William County Sheriff's Office, local law enforcement, civic groups, businesses and the caregivers join in developing and strengthening all aspects of the Project Lifesaver program, including rescues, fundraising and education.

MAINTENANCE AND TRAINING

PWCSSO team members visit the home of the participants to install the transmitter and make regular visits to maintain the equipment. Team members are specially trained not only in the use of the electronic tracking equipment, but especially in the methods to communicate with a person who has Alzheimer's disease, Autism, and other related disorders.

RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST

Locating the participant is only part of the mission. Project Lifesaver emphasizes relationships between team members and the participants who may wander BEFORE the need may arise for a rescue. In addition, in many instances, the adult or child located will be disoriented, anxious and untrusting. Our team knows how to approach the participant, gain their trust and put them at ease for the trip home.

Applications and Questionnaires to be considered for this program may be found at: www.pwcgov.org/sheriff



Project Lifesaver has over 1,300 participating agencies across the U.S., Canada and Australia, and has performed over 3,882 searches in the last 15 years with no serious injuries or fatalities ever reported.

