

# Onondaga County Sheriff's Office



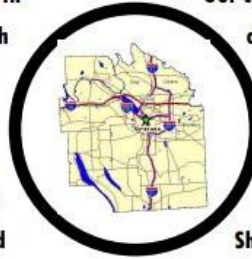
## PROJECT LIFESAVER



A PUBLIC SAFETY PROGRAM  
TO PROTECT AND LOCATE  
MISSING PERSONS DUE TO  
WANDERING

### *Project Lifesaver : A reliable rapid response*

Project Lifesaver was established in April 1999 in Chesapeake VA with the goal of using state of the art technology to help locate people diagnosed with Alzheimer's who wandered. Onondaga County has been a participant since 2007 and serves as the Upstate Coordinator of Training for NY State.



Our clients include the elderly as well as children with Autism, and Down Syndrome, and people with Traumatic Brain Injuries, and developmental delays. Project Lifesaver emphasizes relationships between specially trained Sheriff's personnel and the people who may wander **before** the need may arise for a rescue.

Over 5 million people in the USA have Alzheimer's and related disorders. Well over 60% of these people wander and become lost. Nearly half of those who wander will die and many become injured or fall victim to predators if they are not located within 24 hours.



#### How does it work?

A Project Lifesaver unit member will conduct a home visit and fit the client with a battery-operated transmitter that is worn on the wrist or ankle. A tracking signal is emitted from the transmitter every second, 24 hours a day. This signal can be tracked by our specially trained personnel on the ground and in the air. Family members and caregivers are also given a thorough overview of the program.



#### What happens when my loved one wanders?

If a loved one should wander off, a simple call placed to **911** will alert the Onondaga County Sheriff's search team.



The Sheriff's Office can deploy up to three receivers, including one on Air-1, capable of identifying and locating a client's transmitter signal.

The Sheriff's Air-1 Helicopter is capable of tracking a signal up to 10 air miles. It also can be used to direct search teams on the ground. Once a signal is picked up, our clients are most often located within 20-30 minutes.



"Project Lifesaver is a wonderful program that will help to keep those who are unaware of their surroundings out of harm's way so they can be quickly and safely returned to their family members. I am proud to have helped provide funding to make this lifesaving program a reality."



**Former Senator  
John A. DeFrancisco**

*"It's an extra security for us. I don't depend on it, but having that reassurance that IF he leaves I have people that can look for him."*

**-Kim Blasiak**

(Son, Alex Blasiak, has Autism and has been enrolled with Project Lifesaver since 2011)

*Education and community awareness have been a cornerstone to Project Lifesaver's success. The Onondaga County Sheriff's Office is committed to continuing this effort through presentations to civic groups and various health care providers throughout the community. See contact information below to schedule a presentation.*



**For information or enrollment contact:**

**Onondaga County Sheriff's Office**

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