



Georgetown County Sheriff's Office

A. Lane Cribb, Sheriff

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News Release

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Project Lifesaver Launches in Georgetown County

(Georgetown, SC)---Georgetown County Sheriff A. Lane Cribb announces a newly formed partnership with Project Lifesaver International, a non-profit organization founded by law enforcement for law enforcement to help locate missing persons with Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism or Down Syndrome.

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

Project Lifesaver program works by placing a personalized radio transmitter on identified persons with ARMD who may wander away from the safety of their homes. The transmitter is about the size of a watch and will be worn on the client's wrist or ankle. This transmitter is the vital part of the program when a client may become a lost victim. When one becomes lost, the transmitter communicates with the mobile locater tracking system used by Georgetown County Sheriff's Deputies which aids in the missing person's search.

When the client's caregivers notify the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office 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. Thanks to Project Lifesaver International this will reduce search times from hours and days to minutes. According to Project Lifesaver International in over 1800 searches nationally, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths and recovery time's average less than 30 minutes.

Currently Georgetown County Sheriff's Office search and rescue team consist of 12 sheriff's deputies trained through Project Lifesaver International. This 3 day training was conducted in November of 2008 after the sheriff's office purchased the partnership and 2 mobile locater tracking systems. Since then we have been working in house to prepare for the program and ensure the 12 sheriff's deputies are confident in the operation of the tracking devices and the proper triangulation of a search.

Funding for Georgetown County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver solely depends on the support of the community by private donations, corporations, charitable foundations or families that choose to support one of their own. Sheriff A. Lane Cribb said, "We do not have a special budget to fund this program and for it to be a success, we need the help of the community because with their support we can return a family's loved one home safely."

In order for us to begin accepting applications and enroll clients, funding is needed to purchase transmitters, batteries and wrist bands. The cost for one client to be enrolled for the first year is \$450.00, which is \$300.00 for the transmitter and \$150.00 for a year supply of batteries and wrist bands. For each additional year it will cost \$150.00. The cost for each additional year will continue to pay for the wrist bands and batteries that will be replaced in the client's transmitter every 30 days by a Georgetown County Sheriff's Deputy.

Any individuals, organizations or businesses interested in supporting Georgetown County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver through financial contributions are encouraged to contact the Georgetown County Sheriff's Office at (843) 546-5102. To learn more about Project Lifesaver, you can log onto www.projectlifesaver.org.
