



Stamford Police Department

Project Lifesaver



Caring for a loved one who suffers from a debilitating disease is an extremely stressful situation. If that disease is one that makes the individual disoriented and prone to wander, such as Alzheimer's, Autism, Downs Syndrome, or other dementia related disorders, it elevates a stressful situation to potentially dangerous. In far too many instances, disoriented individuals are unable to find their way home. The Stamford Police Department recognizes the need for a service in our community that addresses this concern, and has become the first law enforcement agency in the state to enroll in the most successful program dedicated to this cause, Project Lifesaver.

Project Lifesaver International is an organization whose primary mission is to locate and rescue missing persons as quickly as possible. This is achieved by forming partnerships with local law enforcement agencies to deploy specially trained teams equipped with the most reliable and proven technology to locate missing persons quickly. How it works is relatively simple. Clients who are enrolled in the program wear a personalized wristband, which emits a tracking signal. When a caregiver notifies a Project Lifesaver Agency, like the Stamford Police Department, that a person is missing, a specially trained search and rescue team from the Police Department responds to the search area with a mobile locator tracking system. The average time for a recovery is 30 minutes when utilizing the Project Lifesaver equipment.

Our team has received training in not only search and rescue and in the use of the electronic tracking equipment, but also in the behaviors and best methods to use in dealing with those groups most likely to wander. Locating missing people is only part of the mission. Many people will be disoriented, anxious, and untrusting when initially found by the police. Learning the techniques on how to approach these people and gain their trust is vital in order to ensure a safe and successful mission.

Cost to both the agency and the enrolled client are relatively low, but financial assistance and fund-raising activities will be necessary to provide widespread access. Stamford Police Lt. Tim Shaw will serve as the State Coordinator. As the first agency in Connecticut to embrace Project Lifesaver, our certified, trained instructors will provide training to other agencies in the state that enroll in the program. As this effort becomes more widespread, regional efforts will bear greater results, thus increasing the probability that our loved ones will be brought home safely. This is precisely the reason why the Stamford Police Department enrolled in Project Lifesaver.

For more information, visit the police website at: www.stamfordpd.org
or
contact Lt. Tim Shaw directly via email at: projectlifesaver@ci.stamford.ct.us

