



Newport News Sheriff's Office

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **IMMEDIATE**

DATE: **Thursday, November 16, 2006**

Helping Families Caring for Those with Alzheimers and Autism

We hear it in the news all too often. An elderly person with Alzheimer's has wandered off and is missing. Or an autistic child becomes lost after wandering away from home. The sense of dread and panic from the family is palpable.

Project Lifesaver is designed to help families who are caring for victims of Alzheimer's, other forms of dementia, autism and Down syndrome. Project Lifesaver is an international program of which the Newport News Sheriff's Office is a participating agency. Person's identified as having a mental dysfunction disorder wear a bracelet that holds a tiny radio transmitter. Trained deputies are called out to begin an immediate search using state of the art equipment.

There is a growing demand on our **FREE** service (funded entirely by donations). So the NNSO is certifying more deputies on Project Lifesaver. It is staffed 100% by volunteers who are on-call 24/7, 365 days a year.

The NNSO is one of only a few agencies in the area that offers Project Lifesaver at no cost to the family it serves, ensuring that everyone who needs it has access.

Please join us Saturday, November 18 for demonstrations of how Project Lifesaver works. More than a dozen deputies will be training with the equipment. This practical training exercise is a perfect way to demonstrate our capabilities. There will be classroom work in the morning. Following lunch, the deputies will go out into the field and actually work with the equipment.

Project Lifesaver, "Bringing Loved Ones Home" with a reliable, rapid response.

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