

# BEFORE

Before Project Lifesaver, searches across the country were averaging 9 hours and costing taxpayer approximately \$1500 per hour. Many searches actually took days, with hundreds of responders, resulting in much higher costs and many tragic endings. One search in Chesapeake in 1979 cost the city \$342,000 and was unsuccessful. The basic cost to start this program in an agency is less than \$8000, finding someone alive is priceless.

Anytime a victim of Alzheimer's disease wanders away from home, it's a race against time to find them.



**'The heart that truly loves never forgets.'**  
~ Thomas Moore



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If you would like to enroll a family member into the Project Lifesaver Program, please contact the Citizen Service Unit of the Walton County Sheriff's Office at (850) 892-8186 or go to [www.waltonso.org](http://www.waltonso.org) for information on how to enroll.



## *Project Lifesaver*



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**Sponsored by the:**  
**Walton County Sheriff's Office**  
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**DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433**  
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# Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease affects over 5 million Americans, of which 70% are at risk for wandering. An estimated 400,000 live here in Florida; 16,000 in Northwest Florida. About 15 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by the middle of the next century unless a cure or prevention is found. In the meantime, there is support.

## What Causes Alzheimer's Disease?

Scientists are still not certain what exactly causes Alzheimer's disease although age and family history are potential risk factors. Researchers have determined that 'plaques and tangles' develop in between neurotransmitters, causing impaired thinking, reasoning, judgment, and memory loss. Until a cure is discovered, education, training, information, and support are available for family members caring for patients with Alzheimer's disease.



## Wandering

Wandering is a common trait for Alzheimer's patients. Patients often become restless and are trying to get 'home' which may be a home they remember from younger years, not the home they live in now. They become lost, and don't know who they are or how they got there. Finding them as soon as possible is crucial to their safety.

## Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver was developed in 1999 by the 43rd Virginia Search and Rescue in Chesapeake, Virginia. This technology



allows law enforcement and search and rescue teams to use radio frequencies to locate a lost patient. A transmitter, about the size of a watch, is placed on the patient's wrist or ankle. Should the patient wander away, the caregiver notifies 911 and a search is begun immediately. Searches that have normally lasted days can now be reduced to less than an hour. Patients are quickly and safely returned to their home thanks to Project Lifesaver.

Project Lifesaver is supported solely by grants and contributions. We do not receive support from your tax dollars, only from your tax-deductible donations.



'The mission of the Alzheimer's Family Services is to extend support to the caregivers of patients with Alzheimer's disease and the patients themselves; educate and train the lay and professional caregivers both in the home environment and care facilities; provide current and updated knowledge and treatment information to the family of the Alzheimer's patient; and to provide other services commensurate with the capabilities of the staff and with the knowledge and approval of the Boards of Directors.'

**Covenant Alzheimer's Services** is a non-profit organization serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties in Florida and Escambia, Baldwin counties in Alabama.

