

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Union County Sheriff ' s Office, Pilot Club of Monroe and Union County Crime Prevention Committees, Inc., have teamed up to offer this valuable rescue resource to citizens of Union County.

*Project Lifesaver deploys specially trained teams with the most reliable technology available to quickly locate and return wandering adults and children to their families and caregivers.*

*Project Lifesaver relies on proven radio technology and a specially trained search and rescue team. Clients that are enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the local Project Lifesaver agency 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. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. In over 1000 searches, there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.*



## Union County Crime Prevention Committees, Inc.

**A Cooperative Project Between  
Union County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Eddie Cathey  
and the  
Pilot Club of Monroe**

Union County Sheriff's Office  
Project Lifesaver Initiative  
3344 Presson Road

For More Information or to participate as a  
Community Partner, Please Call:  
704-283-3765



**UNION COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S  
OFFICE**  
"The People's Law  
Enforcement"

## PROJECT LIFESAVER



A Cooperative Project Between  
Union County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Eddie Cathey  
and the  
Pilot Club of Monroe

## About Project Lifesaver International

Project Lifesaver International is a nationally recognized program that has helped locate and safely return over 1,000 persons nationwide who wandered away from home or care facilities due to mental disorders or brain injuries. The program is a cooperative effort between community organizations, local law enforcement and Project Lifesaver International.

The program is available to any person in Union County who suffers from debilitating mental conditions such as Alzheimer's Disease, Autism or brain injuries, and who may be subject to wandering away from their caregiver. There is a nominal cost associated with providing the service to residents of skilled care or nursing facilities, but it is the intent of the program not to deny the safety and security this equipment can provide to anyone because of financial reasons. Numerous civic and community partners have already come forward to support this initiative.

Pilot International, a world wide service organization, has adopted the Project Lifesaver program as part of its "Protecting our brains for life" campaign, and is committed to educational efforts to teach children to "Play Safe and Play Smart" in an effort to reduce debilitating brain injuries.

**The Union County Crime Prevention Committees, Inc., have generously donated the initial funding to start the program in Union County, including the purchase of the tracking systems, and an initial quantity of tracking bracelets for persons who cannot otherwise afford the devices.**

### How the Program Works:

Members of the Sheriff's Office and the Pilot Club of Monroe have undergone training conducted by Project Lifesaver International in the application and maintenance of the equipment. Participants are fitted with a special radio transmitter bracelet that is tuned to a unique frequency assigned to the bracelet. The water and shock-resistant bracelets are about the size of an average wristwatch and are secured to the wearer by use of tamper-resistant clasps. Caregivers are trained in a daily regimen that documents and verifies proper operation of the device, and are provided with a diagnostic tool that verifies the bracelet is constantly transmitting the homing signal. Once a month, a Sheriff's Office employee or Pilot Club volunteer visits the client to replace the battery that powers the device. It is the intent of the Sheriff and the Pilot Club to continue to provide replacement batteries free of charge to program participants. An application process is available for private citizens who may not be able to afford the tracking bracelet, and those bracelets will be provided as funding is secured from our community partners on a first-come, first served basis. In the event the Project Lifesaver client is discovered missing, caregivers immediately notify 911, and a tracking team is dispatched from the Sheriff's Office.

### History

Established in April 1999 as an initiative of the 43rd Virginia Search and Rescue Company of the Chesapeake, Virginia Sheriff's Office, Project Lifesaver is built on the work of the Stokes County (NC) Mountain Rescue program which pioneered the use of special equipment and procedures to locate lost and wandering patients with mental disorders. Amid the dramatic increase of people with Alzheimer's, Down's Syndrome, and Autism, Project Lifesaver has become one of the leading organizations addressing the need to protect these patients and bring comfort to their families and caregivers. Project Lifesaver is currently active in the following N.C. law enforcement agencies: Catawba County Sheriff's Office, Stanly County Sheriff's Office, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, New Hanover County Sheriff's Office and the Manteo Police Department.

**For More Information or to  
participate as a Community Partner,  
Please Call:  
704-283-3765**

**Union County Sheriff's Office  
Project Lifesaver Initiative  
3344 Presson Road  
Monroe, NC 28112**