

## PROJECT LIFESAVER ECTOR COUNTY

Project Lifesaver is a national non-profit organization that has teamed up with Pilot Club International to provide law enforcement with the electronic technology needed to locate persons with brain disorders who are prone to wandering away from their care givers.

Pilot Club of Odessa and the Ector County Sheriff's Office partnered in February 2006 and launched Project Lifesaver Ector County. With club funds, donations and assistance from the Sheriff's Office, two tracking devices, five transmitters and supplies for six months were purchased.

The Project Lifesaver of Ector County goal is to raise enough funds through donations, memorials and sponsorships to enable any Ector County citizen with Alzheimer's, Down's syndrome, autism, mental retardation or traumatic brain injuries who have a need for a transmitter to have this service for free or at a very low monthly cost.

## What is Project Lifesaver?

Clients wear a transmitter that is set to their own personal frequency as a bracelet or on their ankle. The Sheriff's Office has teams that have been specially trained to locate persons with brain disorders. They also maintain the database of all enrolled clients and their transmitter frequencies. When a client is reported missing, the Sheriff's Office is contacted and searchers begin using the tracking equipment which has a range of one to three miles on the ground. They work outward in a spiral pattern from the location where the client was last seen. The national average time to locate a missing person is 22 minutes using 2-4 personnel. Nation-wide, to date, Project Lifesaver has a 100% success rate and locates the person much quicker using far fewer personnel. All equipment remains the property of the Sheriff's Office, in accordance with the policy of *Project Lifesaver International*.



## Project Lifesaver Statistics

10% of the population 65 and over have Alzheimer's disease. 59% will wander at some point during the progression of the condition.

7 out of 10 of those stricken with Alzheimer's disease live at home.

Experts say about 32,000 Alzheimer's patients wander away from home or long term care facilities each year.

If a wandered person is not found within 24 hours, their survival rate drops to 46%.

When wandering patients die, it was usually because they could go no further. They were stopped by something and could not negotiate around the object that stopped them.

A study of 100 disappearances reported that Alzheimer's patients did not call out for help or respond to shouts from search teams.

Alzheimer's disease is just one form of dementia that may cause wandering.

The largest segment of the predicted Alzheimer's disease population are people over age 85. 50% of that population has Alzheimer's disease.

By 2050 over 14 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease.

The average cost of a search for a wandered person in North Carolina is \$1,500.00 per hour, less air support.

## How can I help?

A donation of only \$500.00 will provide the transmitter and all supplies for one year for one client. Through a special arrangement with Pilot International Foundation, checks over the amount of \$500.00 may be made to the Foundation in order that the donation is claimed on the donor's tax returns. Funds will pass through the foundation, which is a 501(C)(3) organization.

Any donations may be sent to the Pilot Club of Odessa at P.O. Bx 4042, Odessa, TX 79760 and will be acknowledged.

For more information contact:

Mike Harris, Ector County Sheriff's Office (432)335-3050

or

Carla Bryant, Pilot Club (432)337-1492

or check our website at

<http://ectorcountysheriff.us/lifesaver.htm>

The Pilot Club of Odessa has filed for 501(C)(3) status for Project Lifesaver Ector County and will be handling all financial aspects of the project. The club is committed to raising funds through donations, memorials and sponsorships to provide this service to any citizen of Ector County who needs it either free or at a very low monthly cost.



# Project Lifesaver Ector County



**Sheriff Mark Donaldson**  
Ector County, Texas  
<http://ectorcountysheriff.us>

(Quoted from the Odessa American)

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Wednesday, April 25, 2006

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### **Project Lifesaver Ector County pays off** ODESSA AMERICAN

A project by the Ector County Sheriff's Office and the Pilot Club of Odessa paid off Tuesday.

Project Lifesaver Ector County helped people find a 79 year-old man who had wandered away from his home early Tuesday. Project Lifesaver provides electronic tracking devices to the elderly who suffer from dementia.

Shortly before 1 a.m., the sheriff's office was notified that the man was missing. Deputies found the man in about five minutes some seven blocks away from his home.