



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Palm Beach Gardens Police Receive Specialized Equipment to locate missing adults with Alzheimer's disease or children with Down Syndrome, Autism and other related disorders

The Palm Beach Gardens Police Department has purchased specialized equipment and joined the national *Project Lifesaver* program in an effort to increase their ability to quickly and safely locate adults or children with Alzheimer's disease and other related disorders, such as Down syndrome and Autism.

The equipment was purchased by the Police Department with funds contributed by residents and businesses to the Palm Beach Gardens Police Volunteers, Inc. The foundation is a non-profit entity holding IRS 501c3 tax exempt status.

Individuals in the program wear a personalized radio-transmitting device, which is attached to a wristband or anklet. Each device has its own frequency, allowing a signal to be transmitted to a mobile antenna and hand-held directional receiver should the wearer wander away from his or her caretaker. The family caregiver assisting the patient in this program is required to test the unit daily and complete a checklist to ensure proper operation. If any problems or concerns are detected by the caregiver, immediate contact is made to the managing agency.

"Protecting our citizens is our top priority," said Stephen J. Stepp, Chief of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department. "Through the *Project Lifesaver* program, we can offer our citizens a service that can help ease the fears of having a loved one wander away from his or her family. We are excited to be participating in this nationwide program."

Once a participant is reported missing, officers start at the last-known location to begin the search, using the *Project Lifesaver* tracking equipment.

More information on the *Project Lifesaver* program can be found by contacting Project Life Saver - Palm Beach County via their website at <http://www.pbcprojectlifesaver.org/>

The mission of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Volunteers is to provide funding for innovative police department projects, not available from the city's budget, that serve the community, improve communications, and foster excellence in policing. For more information about the foundation visit their website at www.pbgpv.org.