



Project Lifesaver of Sherburne County

Bringing Loved Ones Home

Local law enforcement agencies are working together to bring Project Lifesaver to families of those with special needs. Project Lifesaver International was founded in April 1999 and dedicates its service to protecting those that tend to wander or become lost. Clients on the program have a variety of medical issues including Alzheimer's, Down Syndrome, Autism and traumatic brain injuries. Worldwide, Project Lifesaver Search Teams have been called into action 3,739 times and have successfully located the client and returned them to their loved ones alive, with an average recovery time around 30 minutes!

The technology behind Project Lifesaver is simple. We will use a transmitter (about the size of a wristwatch) that emits a signal specifically designated for each client. The client wears the transmitter, usually on their wrist or ankle. If the client bolts or becomes lost, as often found in Autism and Dementia cases, the client's caregivers can call 911 to activate the Project Lifesaver Search Team. The Search Teams consist of Deputies from the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office and Officers from the Elk River Police Department who are professionally trained in the operation of Project Lifesaver equipment and search and rescue techniques.

Project Lifesaver is inexpensive and gives yet another safety net to families of those with special needs. The piece of mind for caregivers involved with this program is priceless as well. The responsibilities of the Caregiver are important when participating in Project Lifesaver. Someone must always be with the client in order to initiate emergency services if needed, complete daily testing of the transmitter to verify battery power, along with arranging a time for a Deputy/Officer/or Reserve Volunteer to change the battery every 50+ days is required.

If you would like more information regarding Project Lifesaver or if you would like an application for Project Lifesaver of Sherburne County, please visit your local law enforcement department's website or office.

Program Responsibilities for the Caregiver:

1. **Complete application.** (This can be found at <https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/571/Project-Lifesaver> and submit to your local law enforcement agency. Contact information for each department is available on the above website.)
2. **Meet with your local law enforcement** Project Lifesaver representative to complete initial contract and begin program with your loved one.
3. **Costs associated** with the program include an initial one time fee of \$300 which covers the start up equipment for the program for the first 12 months. This is non-refundable. Fees thereafter are \$10 per month to cover maintenance costs (such as batteries, wristbands, etc.), payable for the remaining months of that calendar year in one lump sum and then an annual billing of \$120 for the next year's subscription in January. *If financial assistance is required, various avenues may be available to offset these fees.*
4. **Guardian Angels of Elk River is our Fiscal Agent** and receives the funds that are placed back into the operating budget of Project Lifesaver of Sherburne County.

** Updated November 2020*