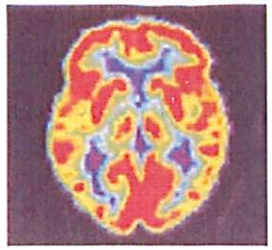
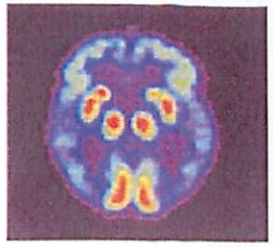


PET Scan of Normal Brain



PET Scan of Alzheimer's Disease Brain

What are the symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease?

Typical early symptoms of Alzheimer's disease include:

- Memory loss.
- Inability to use judgement and make decisions.
- Confusion about what time and day it is.
- Getting lost in familiar places.
- Difficulty learning and remembering new information.
- Difficulty expressing himself or herself.

As the disease progresses, these symptoms get worse. The person may also develop strange new behaviors and withdraw from family and friends. Hallucinations, delusions, and paranoia are common: some people may become verbally or physically aggressive or abusive. Eventually the person may forget how to perform basic tasks like eating, dressing, bathing, using the toilet, or getting up from a bed or chair and walking.

Other Programs Offered By The Cleveland County Sheriff's Office

- **RUOK Program**
- **Community Watch program**
- **Community Policing**
- **D.A.R.E.**
- **School Resource Officers**
- **Home Security Checks**
- **Business Security Checks**

Cleveland County Sheriff's Office Community Policing Unit

PO Box 1508
100 Justice Place
Shelby, N.C. 281510
Phone: 704-476-3053
Fax: 704-476-3047
www.sheriffclevelandcounty.com

Cleveland County Sheriff's Office

Alan Norman
Sheriff

(704)-484-4788
(704)-484-4953

The Need To Protect Those Who Wander

Over 5,000,000 people in the USA have Alzheimer's and related disorders. This number is expected to triple by 2050. Well over 50% of these people wander and become lost. Unaware of their situation, people with Alzheimer's often fail to call out for help or respond to people calling out to them.

Nearly half of those who wander will die and many become injured or fall victim to predators if they are not located within 24 hours.

How Project Lifesaver Works

Each participant is fitted with a personalized Project Lifesaver wristband. This unique wristband is a one ounce battery-operated transmitter that emits an automatic tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day.

This signal can be tracked by our specially trained personnel on the ground or in the air over several miles. Each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, allowing the Project Lifesaver search team to positively locate and identify the person who has wandered away from home or care facility.

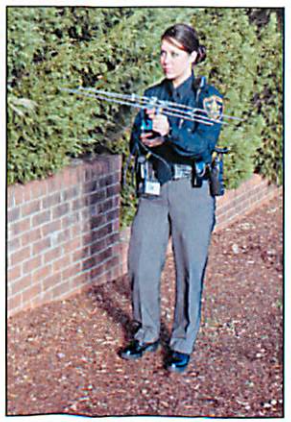
Statistics

- Over 1000 Rescues across the Nation
- 100% Success Rate
- Average time of rescue is 30 minutes

Personal Protection

Project Lifesaver emphasizes relationships between specially trained Sheriff's personnel and the people who may wander <u>before</u> the need may arise for a rescue.

Initially Sheriff's Deputies will conduct a home visit to install the personalized wristband transmitter and provide family members or care providers a comprehensive overview of the program.



Trained in communicating with a person who has Alzheimer's disease, deputies will schedule a monthly home visit to inspect and maintain the equipment to insure its operability.

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive condition that damages areas of the brain involved in memory, intelligence, judgement, language, and behavior. It is the most common form of mental decline or dementia in older adults.

Alzheimer's disease is more severe than the mild memory loss that many people experience as they grow older. It affects not only memory but also behavior, personality, ability to think, and the ability to function from day to day. Close family members usually notice symptoms first, although the person affected also may realize that something is wrong.

What causes Alzheimer's Disease?

Scientists do not fully understand what causes AD. There is not a single cause, but several factors that affect each person differently. <u>Age</u> is the most important known risk factor for AD. The number of people with the disease doubles every 5 years beyond age 65. <u>Family history</u> is another risk factor. Scientists believe that genetics may play a role in many AD cases. For example, familial AD, a rare form of AD that usually occurs between the ages of 30 and 60, can be inherited. However, the more common form of AD, which occurs later in life, has no obvious family pattern. One risk factor for this type of AD is a protein called <u>apolipoprotein E</u> (<u>apoE</u>).

Everyone has apoE, which helps carry cholesterol in the blood. The apoE gene has three forms. One seems to protect a person from AD, and another seems to make a person more likely to develop the disease. Other genes that increase the risk of AD or that protect against AD probably remain to be discovered. Scientists still need to learn a lot more about what causes AD. In addition to genetics and apoe, scientists are studying educations, diet, environment, and viruses to learn what role they might play in the development of this disease.

(continued on the reverse side)