



PROJECT LIFESAVER



Project Lifesaver

The reliable rapid-response partnership with law enforcement aiding victims and families suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders such as Down's Syndrome and Autism.



ENDORSED BY THE NATIONAL SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION

Project Lifesaver is an innovative and rapidly growing program aiding people with Alzheimer's disease, Down's Syndrome, Autism, and other dementia type disorders which may cause them to wander and become lost. Project Lifesaver uses state-of-the-art technology employing wristband transmitters to locate missing adults and children.

transmitter emitting an automatic tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. The signal is tracked on the ground or in the air over several miles. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the search team positively locates and identifies the specific person who has wandered away from home or a care facility. The police officers participating in the program are well trained to know how to approach the person, gain their trust and put them at ease for the trip home.



The Andover Commission on Disability and the Andover Police Department are proud to announce that with col-

laboration of funding, expertise, and effort, Andover will become the first town on the North Shore to be a part of the Life Saver Project.

People who are part of the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Police Department that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. The Lifesaver bracelet is a one-ounce battery-operated radio wrist

Since the program began in 1999, more than 200 law enforcement agencies in 39 states have started the program (11 in Massachusetts). Those search and rescue teams have a 100 percent success rate in more than 1,000 searches. All were found alive and returned home. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. Nationally, the average search and rescue operation lasts nine hours and costs about \$1,500 an hour, officials said. With Project Lifesaver the aver-



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age amount of time it takes to find the missing person is 22 minutes from the time an agency determines where the person was last seen.

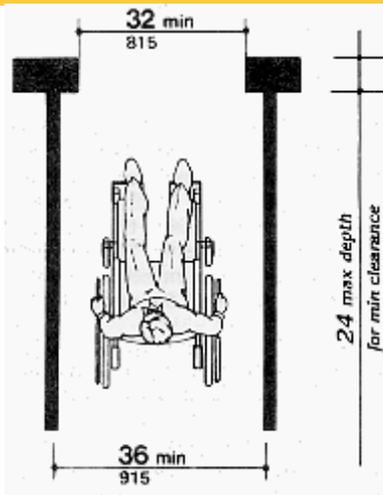
Project Lifesaver, a non-profit organization, has become internationally recognized as an aggressive and proven program that saves lives. It is not a registry system. It is an active response to the problem of locating wandering patients before they fall victim to the elements, ac-

cidents, or predators. Precious lives, many hundreds of hours of search time and significant public resources have been saved. Look for further information about the introduction of this program and the enrollment of your loved one in the *Andover Townsman*.

Visit our Web @:

Andoverma.gov/boards/disability

ACCESS COMMITTEE PROJECT



The Access Committee of the Disability Commission continues its work to make Andover one of the most accessible towns in Massachusetts. What does this mean? Access means that we are striving to make sure that all of the

town offices, buildings, streets and sidewalks are open to all town residents. We work closely with the Town Managers office, the Department of Public Works and the Plants and Facilities Office to see that all town building and streets are accessible to all. Besides just curb cuts and open sidewalks, we look at parking, doorways, elevators, aisles and any other area that may be difficult to navigate.

Not only do we work with all government owned buildings and properties, we also work closely with privately owned buildings and businesses. We survey businesses, agencies, and organizations for accessibility and architectural access. We work with owners and managers to encourage compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Architectural Access Board's

regulations and other disability laws and strive for a community that promotes more access for people with disabilities. We have resolved complaints at several local establishments and work closely with new buildings under construction to make sure that all new buildings in the town meet ADA requirements. The Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990 is now 14 years old. We at The Commission believe that it is all of our responsibility to help Andover be in 100% compliance with this important law to make our entire town fully accessible. Not only does this aid the person with a disability, but also serves mothers with strollers, seniors, and others who would appreciate easier access to government and business establishments.

If you need information about access, or have a question or complaint, please contact one of the Commission members. We all must work together to make Andover all that it can be and open for all of its citizens.

The Andover Commission on Disability meets the fourth Thursday of each month at the town library. We invite all people interested in the work of the commission to attend our open meetings and hear what we are doing in Andover.