



Charlottesville Region Autism Action Group (CRAAG)

December 2017

Saving Lives and Giving Peace of Mind

CRAAG sends you and your family our warmest wishes for a safe and joyful holiday season. We hope the new year will find you relaxed and rejuvenated after spending time with family and friends. We're taking some time off too. Our regular newsletter returns in January 2018.

December is a time of gift giving, and with that in mind, CRAAG asks you to consider making a *life saving donation to Project Lifesaver*, the search and rescue tracking program for lost individuals with ASD, Alzheimer's, and related disorders.

Forty-five adults and 21 children are in need of transmitters in our region. Project Lifesaver saves lives and gives families peace of mind!



[Listen](#) to this short talk by Tom Payne, Deputy Sheriff and Operational Lieutenant - Reserve Division in the Albemarle County Sheriff's Office. He oversees Albemarle/Charlottesville's Project Lifesaver program and is passionate about finding people who are lost.

In our region, in addition to Albemarle/Charlottesville, there are Project Lifesaver programs in Greene, Fluvanna, and Louisa.

Why Project Lifesaver?

Wandering is extremely dangerous for individuals with ASD, especially for those who are non-verbal:

- 49% of children ages 7-10 elope from a safe environment
- 67% of parents say their missing children had a "close call" with a traffic injury when wandering
- 58% of parents rank wandering as the most stressful of all the ASD behaviors

Project Lifesaver's FM radio frequency tracking equipment is the most reliable and practical technology available. Project Lifesaver boasts a 100% safe recovery rate for wanderers, sometimes in as little as 20 minutes time. The teams are trained in methods of communication with people with ASD. For example, 28 of the 57 clients with transmitters in the Albemarle/Charlottesville area have ASD. In Louisa, 100% of the transmitters are worn by individuals with ASD.

Donate Locally - Your Donations Are Needed!

Project Lifesaver is managed by Sheriff's Offices and is funded *exclusively* through self pay, private donations and grants, not taxpayer dollars. *Your donation will buy a transmitter for a wanderer who cannot afford to purchase one.* One of those waiting for a device is a 7-year old Albemarle girl with ASD who recently began wandering.

The one time cost of the transmitter is \$325; the batteries cost \$25/annually. If you can donate \$350, great. If not, that's OK too. A donation of *any amount* helps!

CRAAG confirmed that the following Sheriff's Offices need and want your gift. If you donate, be sure to designate Project Lifesaver.

- The Albemarle County Sheriff's Office Foundation, a charitable organization, accepts tax-deductible donations on behalf of *both* Charlottesville and Albemarle. You can make an [online donation](#) to the Foundation by clicking the donate button on the Sheriff's Office home page. Or, send a check to 411 E. High Street, Bldg "B", Charlottesville, VA 22902, 434-972-4001.
- Greene County accepts checks to the Sheriff's Office at 10005 Spotswood Trail, Stanardsville, VA 22973, 434-985-2222.
- Louisa County accepts checks to the Sheriff's Office at 1 Woolfolk Avenue, PO Box 160, Louisa, VA

23093, 540-967-0401.

Your generosity will be appreciated by the participating Sheriff's Offices, CRAAG, and families of individuals with ASD who need your financial support to keep their loved ones safe throughout the year. Thank you for considering this donation!

CRAAG | Serving Charlottesville, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Nelson | [Email](#) | [Website](#)

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