



# DODGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dale J Schmidt Sheriff   Scott Smith Chief Deputy

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sheriff Dale J Schmidt

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### Project Lifesaver

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office in cooperation with Dodge County Human Services & Health Department and the Dementia Concerns Coalition of Dodge County are in the process of bringing Project Lifesaver to our area. Project Lifesaver is a national program used to provide a timely response to incidents of adults and children who wander due to Alzheimer's, autism, or other related conditions and disorders. The program is designed so that first responders are better able to locate these individuals to save lives and reduce the potential for injury.

Every minute that these individuals may be lost increases the chance that they may be the victim of injury or loss of life. This program will give the Sheriff's Office the ability to reduce the amount of resources needed in locating these people while increasing the efficiency of the search. It also brings peace of mind to families knowing that their loved ones have an added level of security should they wander off.

Project Lifesaver works by providing these at risk individuals with a small transmitter that can be worn on the wrist or ankle. The transmitter sends out a signal that can be detected by law enforcement with special equipment that will be obtained through the Project Lifesaver program. Sheriff's Deputies will be able to quickly locate the at risk individual quickly upon location of that signal.

The cost of this program is a 1 time fee of about \$5000 plus the cost of transmitters. The Sheriff's Office is proud to announce that the Dementia Coalition of Dodge County has offered to cover the cost of the startup fee. Transmitters will be purchased on an as needed basis.

The Dodge County Sheriff's Office is in the process of setting up training for the program and the program will likely be operational this summer. Thank you to the Dementia Concerns Coalition of Dodge County for their support in funding this program. As with any operation of the Sheriff's Office, it is believed that this program will further assist in making Dodge County a safe place to live, work, and visit.

**Information on the Dementia Concerns Coalition of Dodge County:**

The Dementia Concerns Coalition of Dodge County is a group of motivated Dodge County community members whose mission is to enhance the quality of life for persons with dementia or their loved ones by coordinating community resources, offering advocacy, information, support and education. The coalition has an annual dementia walk scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> commencing at the Beaver Dam Community Hospital. All funds raised at this event stay in Dodge County. For more information about the Dementia Concerns Coalition, please call 920-728-4088.

Additional information can be obtained by contacting Sheriff Dale J Schmidt.

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