



May 30, 2023

Re: Project Lifesaver Program  
Westchester County, NY

Esteemed Senior Community leaders, doctors and advocates:

As many of you already know, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety has a Project Lifesaver International agency. This nationwide program provides radio frequency **locator bracelets** to individuals with a history of eloping, wandering, or getting lost. This program is available for **seniors who have dementia**, and for children/young adults who have developmental disabilities, such as autism, and have a history of elopement or wandering. I am the program manager for Project Lifesaver and work at Westchester Jewish Community Services, which provides a myriad of services to ALL residents of Westchester County. I have worked closely with the officers for over six years, and currently have approximately 100+ active clients in the program. This letter is being sent to you and your staff, because you work with the elderly population in Westchester County, in many different capacities, and may know families who are struggling to keep their loved one with dementia safe and protected. Enclosed please find informational material for your review about this life-saving program.

If you or other staff members ever encounter a family who may be helped by the program, please feel free to give the caregiver my contact information. I will then guide them through the application and intake process, as well as support the family in staying compliant with maintenance of the device. I am bilingual (English and Spanish), and have material in Spanish for your use. Please let me know if you need said material, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

In addition, I am available for presentations during department staff meetings, group assemblies, and community engagements/events, to discuss the particulars of the program as well as answer questions that frequently surface. Looking forward to working with you, and helping our communities safeguard our most vulnerable citizens. Take care and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Isabel M Pettersen  
WJCS – Project Lifesaver Program Manager  
845 North Broadway  
White Plains, NY 10603  
914-761-0600 x2230  
[ipettersen@wjcs.com](mailto:ipettersen@wjcs.com)



## PROJECT LIFESAVER Senior Project Lifesaver Fact Sheet

### The Program

Project Lifesaver is a program designed to help individuals with Alzheimer's or dementia who may wander or get lost. Project Lifesaver uses state-of-the-art technology, employing wristband transmitters to locate wandering and lost adults. It is now being used in all 50 states, Canada and Australia.

### The Bracelet

Individuals who are part of the Project Lifesaver program wear a personalized bracelet that emits a locating signal. The bracelet is a one-ounce battery-operated radio transmitter that produces an automatic locating signal every second, 24 hours a day. The signal can be traced on the ground or in the air up to 6-10 miles. The bracelet is water resistant and can be worn in the bath, shower, pool, etc. It is made out of very strong plastic material that is difficult to remove without the use of scissors.

### Search and Rescue

After caregivers call 911, their local police department will be dispatched to the area to begin the search for the missing person. Westchester County Police also need to be called and dispatched to the area to search with a mobile locator receiver system. As each bracelet has a unique radio frequency, the Project Lifesaver search team is able to positively locate and identify the missing person, reducing search times from hours and days to minutes.

### Eligibility for Project Lifesaver

Adults who are eligible for Project Lifesaver through the Westchester County Initiative, which provides the program **free of charge**, must meet the following **requirements**:

- ✓ Have a diagnosis of Alzheimer's or other form of dementia
- ✓ Have a history of wandering or elopement
- ✓ Live in the community with a primary caregiver who provides daily, ongoing care 24/7/365
- ✓ Both caregiver and care-receiver must reside in Westchester County
- ✓ Transmitters will be placed with clients **ONLY** at the request of a legally responsible party, either a spouse or family member with Power of Attorney/Court Order, and can provide a copy to WJCS
- ✓ Must not have access to car keys, and is no longer driving

### Families' Responsibilities

Trained PLS staff will work cooperatively with families to ensure that their loved one's bracelet is safe and effective. Families must agree to:

- ✓ Test their loved one's bracelet on a daily basis & record their tests in a log provided by WJCS
- ✓ Attend all battery change appointments with PLS staff every 60 days at WJCS or any of the battery changing sites throughout Westchester County

You may call Isabel M. Pettersen, Program Manager at WJCS, who is available to answer any questions or discuss any concerns you may have. She can be reached at 914-761-0600 x2230 or [ipettersen@wjcs.com](mailto:ipettersen@wjcs.com).

**Project Lifesaver is a partnership of Westchester Jewish Community Services, Westchester Department of Public Safety, US Dept. of Health and Human Services, NYS Office for Aging, and the Westchester Dept of Senior Programs and Services**



**Do you know a senior  
with Alzheimer's who wanders?**

**If so, help them sign up for**

# PROJECT LIFESAVER



Sponsored by Westchester County Government

This free program uses radio-frequency technology to find seniors who wander and safely return them home. It works through bracelets with special transmitters the seniors wear on their wrists or ankles.

Should someone become lost, specially trained and equipped county police officers can locate them by tracking a radio signal the bracelets transmit.

**TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SIGN-UP, A SENIOR MUST:**

- Live in Westchester County
- Be dependent upon the person they live with
- Have a tendency to wander

Funded through the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Aging (AOA), the New York State Office for the Aging, and the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit [www.westchestergov.com/seniors](http://www.westchestergov.com/seniors), call Westchester Jewish Community Services at (914) 761-0600 Ext. 2230 or email [IPettersen@WJCS.com](mailto:IPettersen@WJCS.com)**

Project Lifesaver is administered by the Westchester Jewish Community Services

Westchester  
gov.com

George Latimer, County Executive  
Mae Carpenter, Commissioner  
Department of Senior Programs and Services

#MyWestchester  
post your pic





**¿Conoce usted a una persona de edad avanzada con el mal de Alzheimer que suele vagar?**

**Si es así, ayude a que se inscriba en el**

# **PROYECTO SALVAVIDAS**

**(PROJECT LIFESAVER)**

Patrocinado por el Gobierno del Condado de Westchester

Este programa gratuito utiliza tecnología de radiofrecuencia para encontrar a personas mayores que deambulan y ayudarlos a regresar a su hogar de manera segura.

Funciona a través del uso de un brazalete con transmisor especial que la persona mayor lleva en la muñeca o tobillo. Si alguien se pierde, oficiales de la policía especialmente entrenados pueden localizar a la persona rastreando la señal de radio que el brazalete transmite.

Financiado a través del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos de EE. UU Administración sobre el Envejecimiento (AoA), la Oficina para Personas Mayores del Estado de Nueva York y el Departamento de Programas y Servicios para Personas Mayores del Condado de Westchester.

**PARA SER ELEGIBLE LA PERSONA MAYOR DEBE:**

- Vivir en el Condado de Westchester
- Dependere de la persona con la que vive
- Tener tendencia a deambular

**PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN, visite [www.westchestergov.com/seniors](http://www.westchestergov.com/seniors), llame a Westchester Jewish Community Services al (914) 761-0600 Ext. 2230 o envíe un correo electrónico a [IPettersen@WJCS.com](mailto:IPettersen@WJCS.com).**

El Proyecto Salvavidas es administrado por Westchester Jewish Community Services.

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