



*Project Lifesaver:  
Travis County*

For Immediate Release:

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## Project Lifesaver Program Launched In Travis County

New program will aid law enforcement in their search for missing elderly persons

A news conference will be held at the Keith George Ruiz Building, 5555 Airport Blvd., at 2 pm, March 17, 2008. The purpose of the news conference is for the Travis County Sheriff's Office to announce a new program aimed at senior adults who tend to wander due to Alzheimer's disease, dementia and other related illnesses.

Project Lifesaver: Travis County is a new member of Project Lifesaver International, a program designed by law enforcement for law enforcement to help locate missing persons who tend to wander. Project Lifesaver: Travis County is open only to residents of Travis County and presently is available free of charge.

Clients enrolled in Project Lifesaver: Travis County wear a special wristband that contains a radio transmitter. In the event that the client wanders, these radio transmitters communicate with special equipment used by law enforcement which aid in the missing person's search. Clients must live with their full-time caregiver, who is required to check the batteries in the wristband daily. Once a month, a Project Lifesaver: Travis County representative will visit the home to replace the battery and wristband.

Although the Travis County Sheriff's Office is facilitating the initiative, Project Lifesaver: Travis County is not possible without valuable community support of local organizations. A coalition of senior adult organizations will help educate the public about the danger of wandering in adults with these disorders and refer clients to the program. The St. David's Community Health Foundation provided initial funding for Project Lifesaver: Travis County, which is supplemented by individual donations. All financial contributions to Project Lifesaver: Travis County are deposited into a special project fund that is administered by the Austin Community Foundation.

Radio Host Cactus Pryor, who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and his wife, Peggy Davis Pryor, support Project Lifesaver: Travis County.

"We would like to encourage everyone who has a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia to care enough to cover the possibility of a safe return for a wanderer," said Peggy Davis Pryor.

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