



**NNSO**

## Newport News Sheriff's Office

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### MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR RELEASE: **Immediate**

DATE: **June 21, 2011**

### Newport News Sheriff's Office Rescues Project Lifesaver Client

On Friday, June 17 at 4:40 p.m., the Newport News Sheriff's Office (NNSO) received a call that one of its Project Lifesaver clients wandered off from her caregiver. A team of trained and certified deputies dispatched to where the 44-year old woman, diagnosed with dementia, was last seen. She was found unharmed just shy of two hours later.

Project Lifesaver is an international search and rescue program administered in Newport News by the NNSO. It uses a unique frequency number assigned to individual clients. The code is dialed into a transmitter wristband and can be detected by receivers carried by deputies.

Two things complicated this search. First, the caregiver did not call the Sheriff's Office in a timely manner giving the woman a head start of more than two hours. Secondly, she was able to remove the wristband even though they are designed to be difficult to tamper with. Considering these factors, the outcome could not have been more positive.

The Newport News Sheriff's Office is one of the few agencies in Hampton Roads to provide this vital service FREE of charge to its clients. Families have enough to worry about without having to figure out how to pay for peace of mind. Thanks to corporate and individual donors, it is possible to provide this service at no cost to clients.

The Denbigh Kiwanis Club presented a check in the amount of \$250 on Tuesday, June 21, 2011. Donations like that help cover program costs: Each receiver (\$2,400), transmitter (\$275), antenna (\$120) and miscellaneous items--batteries, bracelet bands & clasps--(\$100).

For more information about how to donate to the program or how to enroll a loved one, contact the Sheriff's Office PIO at 926-8747.

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*For more information, contact Lt. Kathleen Carey at 757-926-8747 or 757-813-6139.*