# Introduce Parker and Tell His Story

### Our Story

Parker Kahle was born in 2005. At his annual 3 year check-up, his parents heard his pediatrician say six words that forever changed their world..."I think your son has Autism." After many months of testing, they received the diagnosis – Pervasive Developmental Disorder – which is listed on the Autism Spectrum as one of the five forms of Autism. Parker's treatments were delayed because of Insurance Company red tape. Desperate to create a Medical Fund to begin Parker's treatments, his dad, David Kahle, asked a few of his band friends to perform at a benefit for Parker. The event was such a success that they decided to continue it to help other families. Fifteen years ago, David Kahle decided to combine his passion for music, his love for his son and his generous support of the community – and Autism Rocks was born.

What lead me to research location devises and why i choose Project Lifesaver to present to Milford City Council

#### What is Project Lifesaver?



Project Lifesaver is a 501 (C)(3) community based, public safety, non-profit organization that provides law enforcement, fire/rescue, and caregivers with a program designed to protect, and when necessary, quickly locate individuals with cognitive disorders who are prone to the life threatening behavior of wandering. The organization was founded in 1999 in Chesapeake, Virginia. The necessity of this program was determined through the correlation between cognitive conditions and the act of wandering. With the dramatic increase of cognitive conditions since the inception of the organization, the program has grown from a localized program to a program recognized internationally as a proven and effective method of **"bringing loved ones home."** 

Project Lifesaver was the first to apply such locating techniques to aid in the search and rescue of individuals, and is the most widely used and proven most effective program in the nation that is specifically designed to protect the **"At Risk"** populations in our communities. The program was structured in a way that strategically combined state of the art locating technologies, innovative search and rescue methods, and community policing courses that educated first responders about cognitive conditions. The search times for certified Project Lifesaver agencies have been reduced from hours, potentially days, down to minutes. Recovery times for Project Lifesaver agencies average 30 minutes, which is 95% less time than standard operations without Project Lifesaver.

How does the Project Lifesaver Program work?



The Project Lifesaver Program is run at a municipality level by public safety agencies. When an agency decides to implement the program, Project Lifesaver International will equip them with the necessary technologies and provide training to those involved. The training includes the use of the equipment, the implementation of the strategic methods specifically designed for the program, and also community policing courses that provide a basic understanding of cognitive conditions to better comprehend the behaviors of an individual with said condition. Also included during training is the use of the PLS Database, which is a useful resource provided to member agencies at no cost. Completion of training is required for certification. Once an agency has become certified, they may begin acquiring clients for their local program.

The method relies on proven radio technology and specially trained search and rescue teams. Citizens enrolled in Project Lifesaver wear a small transmitter on the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized frequency signal. If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies their local Project Lifesaver agency, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area. The first responders will then use the client's individualized frequency to locate the position of the individual. The knowledge given from the community policing courses is best applied in this situation because the first responders will know how to best approach the client once found, and allow them to be brought back to safety.

Radio Frequency (RF)

RF technology is typically used by law enforcement and first responder agencies but is also available to individual caregivers. RF locating technology includes an RF transmitter worn by the individual who is prone to wandering and an antenna which receives signals from the transmitter. The major advantage to RF technology is the accuracy of signal and the strength of the signal which is only minimally diminished by physical obstructions, if the individual is in a building, or by weather conditions. Additionally, the signal is detectable by both ground and air assets. The average rescue time for locating a missing individual using this method has been 30 minutes.

RF v GPS

**buildings** PLS can detect several levels of a building to locate the floor that the missing individual is in...GPS can not

water unit is water resistant up to 12-15 feet

### Why are children with autism drawn to water?

Children with autism often have big sensory needs, and water provides a calming effect, Richer said Friday.

"Think about the light pressure that water gives you," "Why do some people love to take a bath? Because it's calming. Going under water dulls sounds, dulls your vision. Things become softer, quieter, which is why water is such a huge challenge."

The risk of drowning for autistic children is <u>more than 160 times greater</u> than the general child population, according to the National Autism Association.

\*signal outages (see attachments)\*

Searches belong in the hands of the First Responders

Individual may need medical attention when found

Joshua Al-Lateef Jr. died due to an accidental drowning, according to a preliminary finding from Butler County's coroner. After more than a day of searching, 6-year-old Joshua was found dead around 9 p.m. Thursday in a pond near the apartment building where he lived, according to West Chester officials.Nov 22, 2024

# Missing and Exploited Individuals Statistics

According to <u>data</u> published by the American Academy of Pediatrics, nearly half of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) go missing from their environment, with a substantial number at risk for bodily harm or drowning. Children on the autism spectrum may seek out small or enclosed spaces, head toward water or places of special interest to them, or they may try to escape overwhelming stimuli such as sights, sounds, surroundings, or activities of others.

# **Risk Factors**

Children on the autism spectrum may exhibit behavioral characteristics that threaten their safety such as:

- Attractions to bodies of water, roadways/highways, trains, fire trucks, or traffic signals
- Being non-speaking/non-verbal or unable to respond to searchers when their name is called
- Experiencing sensory/stimuli overload and bolting from their environment
- Heightened risk for exploitation because of their disability

Drowning deaths are a major concern for children on the autism spectrum. Our 10-year analysis showed that of accidental deaths, **84**% were drownings.





