

# Media Release

Monday, April 27, 2015

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Sheriff Frank X Balles  
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### Tracking Device Finds NY Man in AC

**Mays Landing:** On Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 12:15 a.m., a New York man was reported missing from Bally's Casino where he was with his wife while visiting Atlantic City from Scarsdale, New York. He had been missing for over an hour. His wife reported to Atlantic City Police Department that her husband suffered from Dementia and was a client of the Project Lifesaver program. Atlantic City Police Department researched Project Lifesaver and contacted the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office who is the local facilitator of this program. Atlantic County Sheriff's K9 Officer Tonya Perednas, who is trained in Project Lifesaver response, was immediately sent to Atlantic City to assist in the search of the missing man.

Upon arrival, ACSO Perednas was driven down the boardwalk and then Pacific Avenue by ACPD Detective Cruse while a Project Lifesaver receiver was activated with the purpose of tracking the missing man. Clients of the Project Lifesaver program are those who tend to wander, including adults who have been diagnosed with a form of Dementia and children with Autism. Each client is provided a tracking transmitter bracelet and a unique ID number is programmed exclusive to that transmitter bracelet. Once they are reported missing, their caregiver provides the tracking ID frequency number to the officer who responds. That number is dialed into the receiver and it emits a beeping sound when the client is near that grows louder as they become closer to the receiver and the needed assistance.

The officers located the man in the Valet parking area of the Taj Mahal in just over 30 minutes. Positive identification was made verbally and through the Project Lifesaver transmitter number and he was returned safely to his wife. ACSO Perednas gives credit to the Project Lifesaver Program and to the financial support of the MAPS Foundation of SJ, Inc., located in Margate, who recently purchased two new receivers for the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office to use when tracking clients.

"The direct support of the MAPS Foundation of SJ Inc., its president Kathy Varallo, and founder Rose Silverman, allowed the donation of two new receivers for our Project Lifesaver Program", stated Sheriff Frank X. Balles. "Our receivers were old and dated and they sometimes had trouble receiving signals in areas of congestion like Atlantic City. We probably would have located the client with the old receivers although it could have taken us longer, allowing the client greater access to the ocean and other safety hazards."

The MAPS Foundation of South Jersey, Inc. is a non-profit organization helping those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's disease. For more information on the program you can call 609-822-9093 or go to [www.mapsfoundationofsj.org](http://www.mapsfoundationofsj.org)

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**Pictured:** Atlantic County Sheriff Frank X. Balles holding the new donated receiver, Kathy Varallo, MAPS Foundation of SJ Inc. President, Rose Silverman, MAPS Foundation of SJ Inc. Founder holding a Project Lifesaver transmitting bracelet, and Atlantic County Sheriff's K9 Officer Joseph Kleinow, a trained Project Lifesaver locator.

