Project Lifesaver helps locate missing person

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VENTNOR – A local woman was found with the help of the Atlantic County Sheriff officers and Project Lifesaver.

Sheriff's Officers Joseph Kleinow and Matthew Poupard assisted in locating the missing person on Monday, Sept. 16 in Ventnor.

According to a release from the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office, she had wandered off while her husband was still sleeping and her participation in the Project Lifesaver program helped the officers locate the woman quickly and safely. She was reunited with her spouse without incident according to the Sheriff's Office.

"One of the major benefits of Project Lifesaver is that we've been able to reduce search times from hours and sometimes days, to just minutes," said Sheriff Frank X. Balles. "It's important to offer this service to our community because not only are we concerned for the safety of the program's clients, but we also want to be able to assist the caregivers that so many rely on, giving them peace of mind whenever possible."

The Project Lifesaver Program is a rapid response system that helps the officers track adults and children who tend to stray due to Alzheimer's disease, autism, Down syndrome, and other conditions.

Supported statewide by the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey, the program gives each client a bracelet that transmits an individualized tracking signal. This signal can be picked up by law enforcement within a 1-mile radius using the receiver equipment.

If an enrolled client goes missing, the caregiver notifies the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office, and a trained emergency team responds to the wanderer's area. Most who wander are safely found within a few miles from home.

Balles was recently at a fundraiser for Project Lifesaver touting the benefits of the program.

For more information, see the Atlantic County Sheriff's Office website, acsheriff.org.

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