

**SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY
FIRST IN NATION TO VOLUNTARILY OFFER
PROJECT LIFESAVER STATEWIDE**

For Immediate Release- On Thursday, May 24, 2007, at 11:00 a.m. at the Gloucester County Courthouse, 1 North Broad Street, Woodbury, NJ, the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey will announce at a Press Conference that now, through the voluntary efforts of all twenty-one Sheriffs, New Jersey is the first state in the nation to voluntarily offer the *Project Lifesaver* program state-wide. Gloucester County Sheriff Carmel Morina and Gloucester County Undersheriff Chuck O'Leary of the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office have made this day possible as they are the 21st and final New Jersey Sheriff's Office to offer Project Lifesaver.

Joining **Sheriff Edward V. Rochford**, the President and Executive Director of the Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey, on May 24, 2007, to make this announcement will be Gloucester County Deputy Freeholder Director **Robert Damminger**, Gloucester County Freeholder **Helene Reed**, Project Lifesaver International CEO and Executive Director **Chief Gene Saunders**, President-Elect of the National Sheriff's Association **Sheriff Craig Webre** of Lafourche Parish, Louisiana, and **Patricia Lombreglia**, President and CEO of the Alzheimers Association-Greater New Jersey. We are especially pleased that the **Speaker of the General Assembly Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.** will be our keynote speaker during our Press Conference.

Project Lifesaver, headquartered in Chesapeake, Virginia, is a reliable rapid-response partnership with law enforcement aiding victims and families suffering from Alzheimer's disease and related disorders such as autism and Down syndrome. It is the world's most reliable program for locating missing persons, providing safety through a proven, rapid response system with the most practical, affordable and successful solution for bringing loved ones home and peace of mind to the caregivers.

Project Lifesaver relies on proven radio technology and a specially trained search and rescue team. Clients that are enrolled in the program wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify their local Sheriff's Office that a person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with the mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from days and hours,

minutes. In 1,490 searches to date there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. Recovery times average less than 30 minutes.

Statewide coverage offers freedom to a family on vacation in our state. The Sheriff in one county can call the Sheriff in another county and pass on the information about the Alzheimer's patient or the child with autism so the person can be quickly located if they accidentally wander away from their family. ***Project Lifesaver*** has partnered with law enforcement throughout the nation. Even if a New Jersey family is vacationing out of state, the Sheriff's Office in that state can retrieve our ***Project Lifesaver*** information.

Project Lifesaver is endorsed by the National Sheriffs' Association and we are proud that the **Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey** is the leader in the United States in helping autistic children and adults, and persons with Alzheimer's disease. **The Sheriffs' Association of New Jersey** also understands the importance of the law enforcement community's ability to recognize the behavioral symptoms of those suffering from autism and Alzheimer's disease. We fully support and applaud the **Speaker of the General Assembly Joseph J. Roberts, Jr.'s** proposed legislation requiring the establishment of an autism awareness program for police officers as well as emergency medical technicians and firefighters. We look forward to utilizing our experience in the statewide training of our officers to assist Assemblyman Roberts in his efforts.

For more information about the New Jersey Sheriffs' Association, please refer to www.njsheriff.org. For more information regarding Project Lifesaver, go to www.projectlifesaver.org.
