

WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		NEWS RELEASE NUMBER
NEWS MEDIA RELEASE		2017-021
INFORMATION: MEDICALERT		
DATE: 4/19/2017	TIME: 1600 HOURS	PAGE 1 OF 1

THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MEDICALERT FOUNDATION, HAS ANNOUNCED A FREE PROGRAM AIMED TO PROTECT COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH DEMENTIA AND AUTISM WHO ARE AT-RISK FOR WANDERING EMERGENCIES. THROUGH THE NEW PROGRAM, THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT WILL NOW BE ABLE TO ENROLL LOCAL RESIDENTS (AND THEIR CAREGIVERS), VIA AN ONLINE PORTAL, INTO THE MEDICALERT NATIONAL REGISTRY/DATABASE TO RECEIVE A FREE MEDICAL IDENTIFICATION BRACELET AND FREE 24/7 EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES.

WHILE THE WANDERING STATISTICS FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND AUTISM ARE STAGGERING (6 IN 10 ADULTS WITH ALZHEIMER'S OR RELATED DEMENTIA WILL WANDER, AND 50% OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDERS WILL ELOPE); MEDICALERT HAS BEEN HAILED AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE OVERALL SAFETY PLAN FOR FAMILIES WITH A LOVED ONE AT-RISK OF WANDERING. THE CHARITY REPORTS THAT THERE IS A 98% SUCCESS RATE FOR LOCATION MISSING PERSON WHEN MEDICALERT PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ARE UTILIZED.

RESIDENTS WHO HAVE LOVED ONES THAT ARE AT-RISK FOR WANDERING ARE ENCOURAGED TO ENROLL IN THE FREE PROGRAM. INTERESTED RESIDENTS CAN REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.WINNEBAGOSHERIFF.COM. ADDITIONALLY, COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAN REGISTER AT THE UPCOMING SAFETY SAFARI EVENT HELD AT OSF HOSPITAL ON MAY 20, 2017.

VISIT WWW.MEDICALERT.ORG/LEAP FOR MORE INFORMATION.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> : SHERIFF : CHIEF DEPUTY : DEPUTY CHIEF OF DETECTIVE BUREAU : DEPUTY CHIEF OF PATROL BUREAU : DEPUTY CHIEF OF ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU : DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT SERVICES : SUPERINTENDENT OF CORRECTIONS : ACCREDITATION MANAGER : MACHESNEY PARK SECTION SUPERVISOR : FOREST PRESERVE SECTION SUPERVISOR : ESDA SECTION DIRECTOR : PATROL ROLL CALL BOOK : PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER : 1ST FLOOR BULLETIN BOARD : WEB SITE COORDINATOR 	<p>SHERIFF GARY CARUANA</p> <hr/> <p>SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZING RELEASE</p> <p>DATE: <u>4/19/17</u> TIME: <u>1600 HOURS</u></p>
S/A-32C REVISED 07/01/12	