



## St. Mary's County Health Department

### NEWS RELEASE

[www.smchd.org](http://www.smchd.org)

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#### HEALTH DEPARTMENT DONATES \$5,000 TO PROJECT LIFESAVER

LEONARDTOWN, MD (November 1, 2006) – St. Mary's County Health Department is donating \$5,000 to Project Lifesaver, a program sponsored by the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office in response to growing concern about elderly individuals in the County with Alzheimer's Disease or other forms of dementia.

Project Lifesaver is an electronic tracking system designed to help locate people who have wandered away from family members or caregivers. The system has proven highly effective in other areas of the country and has been available to St. Mary's County residents since 2005. It allows for faster tracking when an at-risk person is lost. A watch-sized transmitter is attached to the patient, monitored daily by the caregiver and monthly by volunteers who change the battery. Should a person wander away, trained volunteers are brought in with receivers to locate the missing individual.

The Health Department's donation is provided out of funds from a Chesapeake Potomac Home Health Agency disbursement intended to identify public health challenges and enhance services that directly impact people's health. The funds will provide tracking bracelets and batteries for patients.

For more information about Project Lifesaver, please call the Sheriff's Office at 301-475-4200, ext. 1900.

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*Caption: (Center) St. Mary's County Health Department's Pat Simone, RN, community health nurse supervisor, and Joy Sapp, fiscal officer, present St. Mary's County Sheriff David D. Zylak with a check for \$5,000 for Project Lifesaver.*