

Take
Me **H**  **ME**
PROGRAM



SAN DIEGO COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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TAKE ME HOME

Dealing with people with special needs



Brian Herritt



- Palomar College Police Officer (retired)
- Father of a child with Autism – “Little Brian”
- Responded to these types of incidents while working
- He has received police assistance as a family and caregiver for his child



AUTISM SPEAKS
It's time to listen.

Take Me Home

- Registry intended to serve people with developmental disabilities and / or medical conditions that increase their risk of wandering off and becoming lost.
- Members of this group may not be able to identify themselves or provide accurate information to first responders about their immediate needs



Information provided

- Medical conditions
- Special care instructions
- Detailed description of the person
- PHOTO



Recommend for anyone who:

- Has limited communication skills and ...
 - Is attracted to water
 - Tends to wander
 - Has unusual behavior or mannerisms
 - May not initially be identified as disabled
 - Easily agitated or confused when stressed
 - Unable to provide their name and address
 - Is unresponsive to strangers





STAKEHOLDERS

- ARC of San Diego
- Alzheimer's Association of San Diego / Imperial
- Autism Society of San Diego
- San Diego Regional Center



The Need

- Calls for service
 - 2011: Missing Persons at risk : 1,627
 - 2012: Missing Persons at risk: 1,876

Down Syndrome

One in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, making Down syndrome the most common chromosomal condition.

The Need

ALZHEIMERS



- **60,000** San Diegans are currently living with Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias

AUTISM



- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in **68 children** (or 14.7 per 1,000 eight-year-olds) in multiple communities in the United States has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD)



Alzheimer's

Alzheimer's is a progress disease of the brain that destroys memory the ability to communicate and understand language.



Alzheimer's

- The San Diego County Board of Supervisors in 2014 established The Alzheimer's Project, an unprecedented regional initiative to address the toll of the disease on families, communities and our health care systems. The devastating impact of Alzheimer's is expected to escalate as the region's elderly population surges.

Alzheimer's

- Alzheimer's was the third leading cause of death in San Diego County in 2012, exceeded only by cancer and heart disease.
- At the national level, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death, and the fifth leading cause for those 65 and older.
- Many experts in the Alzheimer's field point out that these rankings only reflect a fraction of the deaths attributable to the disease

Alzheimer's

- Currently 60,000 San Diegans are estimated to be living with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias (ADOD).
- According to the Alzheimer's Association, one in every nine Americans 65 and older has the disease, and one in every three people 85 and older has some form of the disease.
- In San Diego County, those 85 years and older are the fastest growing age group, projected to increase 40% by 2030.

Alzheimer's

- In San Diego County, the number of those 55 years and older with ADOD is expected to increase by 56% between 2012 and 2030, from 60,000 to nearly 94,000 residents.
- Currently, the East County region has the greatest number (14,765) and proportion (12.4%) of residents 55 years and older with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.
- It is estimated that by 2030, nearly one out of four San Diegans 55 years and older with ADOD will live in East County.



Alzheimer's Wandering

Six out ten people with dementia will wander at some point during the disease.

Often they have forgotten where they live, are disorientated, or go back to places they use to reside.

Many are found within short distances of their home but some can walk 10-15 miles.



Wandering is an Emergency

Start search immediately. If not found within 24 hours up to half of the individuals risk serious injury or death.

The danger is especially great in extreme weather, around busy roads and natural hazards (lakes, ponds, etc.)



Wandering

- If you encounter the missing person call for Law Enforcement
- Keep in mind that dementia can cause confusion, agitation, anxiety and suspicion.
- Remain calm, approach from the front, introduce yourself, maintain eye contact and and speak slowly in a friendly tone.

The need for Take Me Home

- In 2013, more than **136,800** unpaid caregivers in San Diego
- Timely, Accurate, Searchable, and Regional



Current registration process

- Online self-registration
- Contact Stakeholder organization participating in enrollment program.
- Enroll through a Sheriff's Crime Prevention Specialist at any Sheriffs Patrol Station.



Getting in the system

- Stakeholders have access to Secure registration webpage
- Law Enforcement Agency can request access to the data base

Patrol response

Recommend it to those in the field you contact who meet the criteria

Refer the public to our website for Self-Registration

Refer the public to the Crime Prevention Specialist at your station to register

- PATROL
- Call for Service (SDSD) “Flagged: addresses registered in the TMH data base via CAD.



Project Benefits

- Safeguard those who need extra care
- Speed return of lost clients
- Speed return of LE personnel to other tasks
- Great public relations tool
- Regional access (all agencies)
- Supported by: Autism Society, SD Regional Center, Center for Blind, Center for Deaf...