

A Decade of Safely Home

Ten years ago the story changed for people with Alzheimer Disease who leave home and go missing. That is when the Alzheimer Society of Canada, in collaboration with the RCMP, Health Canada and the Solicitor General, launched the Alzheimer Wandering Registry. Now called Safely Home™, the program is a tool that helps police locate people with Alzheimer Disease who have gone missing. Today there are more than 20,000 people registered in a confidential police database. If a registrant becomes lost, police can immediately access key information that will aid in locating and returning the person safely.

How Safely Home Works

For a one-time administration fee of \$25, a person's information -- including personal history, physical characteristics and places they are known to visit -- is entered into the Safely Home Registry. The information is confidential and can only be accessed by police. An identification bracelet and wallet cards are provided to the person with Alzheimer Disease along with a Caregiver Handbook for the family. A registration number and the words "Memory Loss Call Police" are on the bracelet.

Often people gain peace of mind simply by registering. "My wife and I seldom go out separately so getting lost hasn't been a problem," says Ted Sayer, whose wife has Alzheimer Disease. "But the idea is to have this in place as a safety measure before it happens. You hope it never does, but there is comfort in knowing that there is a system in place to help return her home to me should we ever need it."

Unfortunately, as many as 60 percent of people with Alzheimer Disease become lost outside their homes, which is why registering in Safely Home is recommended for those with the disease.

Since 1995, the Safely Home program has provided a means to help resolve these situations quickly, lessening the risks associated with these incidents. **To find out more or to register in Safely Home™ - Alzheimer Wandering Registry, please contact the Alzheimer Society of Canada at 1-800-616-8816, visit www.alzheimer.ca or contact your local Alzheimer Society.**