

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Alzheimer's San Diego awarded \$10,000 grant for Pilot Program to Provide GPS Devices to local families impacted by Alzheimer's disease**

Alzheimer's San Diego will launch a pilot program to make GPS wandering-assist devices more accessible and available to families whose loved ones have Alzheimer's disease or another dementia.

The Wandering Prevention program is being launched with GreatCall, a San Diego-based provider of technology for healthy aging, with support from the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. It is supported through a \$10,000 grant awarded at the recommendation of San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox. The proposal for the pilot program was approved at the April 26, 2016 Board of Supervisors meeting.

There are more than 60,000 San Diegans living with Alzheimer's disease; a number expected to nearly double by 2030. Due to the progressive and relentless nature of the disease, it can take a devastating toll on the entire family and can also pose serious safety issues for the individual.

"Six in 10 people suffering from Alzheimer's or another dementia will wander. Alzheimer's San Diego is committed to educating families about dementia-related safety and to giving them the tools they need to keep their loved one safe," said Mary Ball President and CEO, Alzheimer's San Diego

GPS-enabled devices can be a great option for families to help prevent wandering, which poses great risk of injury or even death. Many families are unaware of the technology options or feel they are simply too expensive. The Wandering Prevention Pilot Program will provide 100 families who have a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia with a free GPS monitoring device. By reducing the financial barrier, families will be able to take advantage of the latest technology and ultimately improve the safety of their loved one.

"Too often we hear of San Diegans with Alzheimer's who have wandered away and are at risk," said Supervisor Cox. "This pilot program will prevent tragedies from occurring and give families peace of mind."

The project is supported by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, which is seeing an increasing number of dementia-related wandering cases. The Wandering Pilot program will work with the Sheriff's Take Me Home program; a photo-based information system promotes communication and gives Law Enforcement access to critical information to help return the individual safely.

"This is an excellent example of a few people coming together for the greater good," commented San Diego Sheriff Bill Gore. "The Wandering Prevention Program, in conjunction with the 'Take Me Home' initiative is another safety net to keep those suffering from Alzheimer's Disease safe from harm."

**For more information about the Wandering Prevention Pilot Program or dementia-related safety concerns, please visit [www.alzsd.org](http://www.alzsd.org) or call 858.492.4400**

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