

TAKE ME HOME



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



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



Current registration process

- Contact with appropriate stakeholder organization based on enrollee's circumstances.
- Fill out form and submit with photo
- It is FREE



STAKEHOLDERS

- ARC of San Diego
- Alzheimer's Association of San Diego / Imperial
- Area Board XIII State Council on Developmental Disabilities
- Autism Society of San Diego
- Epilepsy Foundation of San Diego
- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Camp Pendleton
- North Coastal Consortium for Special Education
- San Diego/Imperial Counties Development Services, Inc.
- St. Madeleine Sophie's Center
- Stepping Stone Resources
- United Cerebral Palsy of San Diego

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)

The Need

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



Getting in the system

- Stakeholders have access to Secure registration webpage
- Law Enforcement Agency can request access to the data base
- PATROL
- Call for Service (SDSD) “Flagged: addresses registered in the TMH data base via CAD.



Patrol response

- Know that the registry exists
- Recommend it to those in the field you contact who meet the criteria
- Notify your Crime Prevention Specialist when you have taken a missing person report that meets the criteria.

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



"TAKE ME HOME" REGISTRY

What is *Take Me Home*, and why do we need a regional registry?

Across the San Diego region, police agencies respond to calls by caregivers of people with special needs that are missing, and to calls by concerned citizens regarding someone they have found that needs assistance but can't identify themselves or communicate information about their needs or who provides care for them. When police respond to these incidents, information is the critical element to provide for the safety of the person involved – information that is timely, accurate, searchable, and especially that is accessible across the entire region.

No one understands this need for information better than Officer Brian Herritt of the Palomar College Police Department. Officer Herritt has responded to these incidents, and is also the father of a child with special needs and has received police assistance as the family and caregiver for his child. Officer Herritt, bringing clarity to the issues and envisioning a regional solution, brought the idea for a registry to the Sheriff's Department.

That idea has been turned into action by adapting an existing photo-based information system, one hosted by the Sheriff's Department and currently used by all police agencies throughout the region, to include information about people with special needs, based on a voluntary enrollment by the person's caregiver through a supporting organization. This secure, Sheriff-hosted application became the *Take Me Home* registry, and is accessible by all police agencies across the San Diego region.

Expert organizations specialize in providing services and support to the various needs and



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Newsroom
- Bath Salts & Designer Drugs
- Child Abuse
- Crime Free Multi Housing
- Crime Mapping
- Crime Prevention
- Domestic Violence
- Elder Abuse
- Financial Crimes
- Nixie Information
- Prescription Drug Abuse
- Prescription Drop-Off
- Senior Volunteer Patrol
- Sheriff's Museum
- Simon the Bloodhound
- Social Host Ordinance
- Start Smart Program
- Take Me Home Registry
- Terrorism



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