

Take Me Home allows for the safe return home of those who may not be able to communicate vital information to law enforcement officers or first responders.

“I hope this program will assist in reuniting loved ones quickly, so that none are traumatized and it will provide ‘peace of mind’ to the families who enroll a loved one”

---Sergeant Jimmy Donohoe

TESTIMONIAL

Devyn is known as a “runner” and despite his parents’ best efforts, he sometimes escapes from home. Once, Devyn was playing in the fenced-in yard; in seconds he climbed the fence and took off. When his father, John, realized he was missing shortly after, he called 911. When he gave Devyn’s name to the operator, she reported that the police had already picked Devyn up and he was on his way back home. Even though Devyn is non-verbal, with the “Take Me Home” program, the first responders knew exactly who he was and where he lived. Because Devyn’s parents enrolled him in the “Take Me Home” program, if he goes missing his information and photograph are immediately available to police.

“I continue to keep a close watch on him but feel comfortable in the fact that if he does manage to escape, the city and county police will know who he is along with a description of where he lives. This is a program that all parents of special needs children should take advantage of.”

- Devyn’s dad, John

A Message from the Chief

In the summer of 2015 our officers came across a young man walking in the road near a busy intersection, wearing no socks or shoes. When officers met up with the child they discovered him to be a non-verbal autistic child. The boy could not tell officers where he lived. The officers attempted to send the subject’s picture out to other officers in an attempt to canvas the immediate area and identify the child’s parents. The officers found this to be a difficult task and were initially unsuccessful in locating the child’s parents. Sometime later a call was received by dispatch from the child’s parents, and the boy was reunited with them. The Take Me Home project will provide our officers with needed technology to assist them in reuniting loved ones.

**-Niskayuna Police Chief
Daniel McManus**

**Take Me Home is
voluntary for citizens
who participate, and all
information is kept
confidential.**



A FREE PROGRAM

**BY THE TOWN OF NISKAYUNA
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

HELPING TO BRING YOU PEACE OF
MIND

THROUGH COLLABORATION BETWEEN



Project Development

In 2003, Pensacola Police Sergeant Jimmy Donohoe was invited to a meeting of the Autism Society of the Panhandle (Fla). During the meeting, he was asked by parents of non-verbal children what they could do to improve potential encounters between their children and law enforcement personnel. After making several suggestions that were not acceptable to all the parents, Sergeant Donohoe left the meeting knowing he had to do something. The "Take Me Home" program evolved from that meeting so that children on the autism spectrum who may wander will be returned home safely and treated with understanding.

The Take Me Home program was developed in cooperation with Consolidated Technology Solutions, a law enforcement software company and with the support of Pensacola Police Chief John W. Mathis. In conjunction with the Autism Society's Safe and Sound Initiative, the Take Me Home program is distributed at no charge to law enforcement agencies nationwide. Pensacola Police Chief David Alexander III continues his support of the program so that it can be used by law enforcement agencies to help those who may not be able to communicate or who have forgotten their way home.

Autism Society Safe & Sound Initiative

The Autism Society began the Safe and Sound Initiative in 2005 to provide much-needed resources to the autism community on topics such as general safety, emergency preparedness and prevention, and risk management. Safe and Sound works to develop information and strategies that are beneficial to individuals on the spectrum, their families and the professionals who work with them, as well as to provide information and training on autism to first responders.



Niskayuna Police Department

The Niskayuna Police Department is committed to providing professional, efficient and courteous service to the public. Officers strive to improve the quality of life by enforcing laws in a fair and impartial manner while encouraging a spirit of cooperation and mutual trust with the public. Officers and support staff have respect for the dignity and rights of all people.

What is Take Me Home?

Take Me Home is a database for people who may need special assistance if they are alone or in times of emergency. This kind of assistance may be required if the person is unable to speak or properly identify themselves or if they become disoriented or act in a manner that could be misinterpreted by first responders. The system includes a current digital picture, demographic information and caregiver contacts. If a person in the Take Me Home system is encountered by a police officer, the officer can query the Take Me Home system, searching by name or by the person's physical description. Once the individual's Take Me Home record has been located, the officer has the information at hand to appropriately assist the person.

How does it work?



The information is placed in a database that can be accessed in police vehicles or back at the station. If officers find someone who can't communicate where he or she lives, they can search the database by description and return the person to their loved ones. The system also works in reverse – if a loved one goes missing, their picture and description is immediately available.