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DEVICE PROVIDES SAFETY FOR THOSE WITH AUTISM

October 4, 2011 by cpehrson

Laura Anderson has a 15-year-old boy with autism, so she knows what it's like to worry about them wandering and disappearing out from under you.

"There's nothing worse than losing your child," she said.

Worse still, is if the child does have autism — with its various accompanying challenges that keep individuals from realizing the danger they're in.

Non-verbal children and adults who have no safety awareness are at risk if they ever wander away from caregivers. A new device, worn like a wristwatch, was developed as a way to quickly locate missing people with cognitive impairments, such as Alzheimer's, dementia or autism.

The EmSeeQ location device uses the cellular network to determine a person's location, and is only activated upon a true emergency by caregivers and tracked by emergency 9-1-1 personnel. Within minutes...an average of 13 minutes...a person who has wandered can be located and returned to safety.

Laura, along with many other caregivers, can breathe a collective sigh of relief knowing that they are doing all they can to keep their loved ones safe.

Laura Anderson is a long time advocate for people with autism and President-Elect of the Autism Council of Utah. She is also the co-coordinator of the Big MAKS (Mothers of Autistic Kids) and serves on many more committees for autism. She recently won the Angels for Autism award at the Autism Speaks conference.

Laura Anderson is a member of the CPD Consumer Advisory Council.