

Sand Lake Ambulance LifeAlert Program

Prepared for: Town of Sand Lake Board & Sand Lake Senior Department

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Background

In 2008, SLA responded to 645 service calls of which 51 were senior citizens (greater than 60 years old) who had sustained a fall or other life-threatening medical emergency. Fall victims, in our experience, can remain immobilized for over 12 hours before receiving emergency medical service due to the inability to notify 911 of their injury and of these, studies indicate that only 10% are able to return home following hospitalization.

Objective

To expedite emergency response and mitigate the likelihood of out-of-home displacement to alternative eldercare settings.

Solution

SLA will purchase 50 Guardian Alert 911 units which it will loan to an equivalent number of senior citizens subject to specific eligibility criteria contained in a user agreement. Each unit consists of a necklace pendant which functions as a miniature cordless telephone with the exclusive purpose of contacting a 911 operator when activated. The corresponding docking station plugs into any conventional phone jack. There are no ongoing operational fees beyond the initial purchase price, rendering the project completely sustainable beyond grant funding. Approximately 33 of these units will be purchased with funds provided through the Community Foundation for the Greater Capital Region's Barry Alan Gold Memorial Fund. The remaining 17 units will be acquired through matching funds contributed to the Sand Lake Ambulance's memorial donations account.

Implementation

Upon receiving grant approval through the Barry Alan Gold Memorial Fund, SLA will purchase 50 Guardian Alert 911 units. Senior citizens will be notified of unit availability by means of advertisement in various media outlets such as the Town of Sand Lake municipal website, public access cable channel, and local not-for-profit senior service providers.

Units will be loaned to program participants based on their satisfying eligibility criteria and agreeing with specific user conditions. Thereafter, SLA will deliver and install each unit.

Goals

By January 1, 2010, all 50 Guardian Alert 911 units will have been installed in the homes of participating senior citizens. By May 1, 2010, 50% of all senior citizens using the Guardian Alert 911 will summon 911 emergency medical assistance within 15 minutes of their fall. By August 31, 2010, 90% of senior citizens using the Guardian Alert 911 will summon 911 emergency medical assistance within 15 minutes of their fall.