



PROJECT LIFESAVER

NEWSLETTER | MAY 2020



An Important Message from the Chief:

Each year, Project Lifesaver holds its Annual Conference: a time when representatives from many of our member agencies, our partners, and many from the special needs' community come together for training, education, networking, seeing old friends and making new ones. This year was going to be no different. In fact, in 2019, we began the planning of what would become our 2020 conference with very special speakers including (but certainly not limited to): **Kim Campbell**, author of the recently released book *Gentle on My Mind* and Glenn Campbell's wife; **Dr. Julian Maha M.D**, CO-Founder of KultureCity; **Noah Wyle**, an American film, television, & theater actor; and **Max Gail**, an American actor who has starred in many theater, television, and film roles, and is a Project Lifesaver Ambassador.

We were then introduced to the COVID-19 Global Pandemic and everything changed! No one could ever have predicted the extent of disruption and change that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our society. During these difficult times, we have seen significant changes in our lives, culture, families, economy and how we will do things now and going forward. We have heard from many of you and although you would like to come to the conference, this unprecedented situation has made many unable to travel and leave the communities you serve.

Many of you suggested we hold a Virtual Conference and so that is exactly what we are going to do! With your input, we have decided to re-format this year's conference as a hybrid conference, with both virtual and limited on-site attendance. Because of the unusual circumstances we have all faced this year, there will be no charge for attending the conference either virtually or at the conference site. Additionally, we will be fully refunding all who have already registered for the on-site conference.

We will be broadcasting many of the conference presenters out of the original conference venue, The Hilton Buena Vista Palace at Disney Springs, which has on-site, sophisticated Virtual Conferencing technology and highly experienced teleconferencing support staff. This will allow us to have a small, limited, on-site audience while broadcasting the virtual interactive conference to agencies and individuals around the world. (The on-site attendees and conference space layout will fully comply with all CDC and State of Florida COVID-19 guidelines.)

For those that choose to attend the conference on-site, Project Lifesaver is holding a block of rooms at The Hilton Buena Vista Palace at Disney Springs at a specially discounted rate of \$119.00 per night.

Winston Churchill once said, "Difficulties mastered are opportunities won". Let's make some opportunities!

The Project Lifesaver 2020 Virtual Conference will be broadcasted on Monday, August 31st and Tuesday, September 1st, 2020. More registration and agenda details will be coming shortly, but please "Save the Dates" on your calendars.

Please go to <https://projectlifesaver.org/conference/> to register for the Project Lifesaver 2020 Virtual conference FREE of charge! You will also have the option, if you choose, to register for the conference and join us at the conference site, also, at NO charge.

With the warmest regards and all the best for you and your families,

Gene Saunders

Founder & CEO



HAPPY

WE TURNED **21** LAST MONTH!

Thank you to all of our members and friends for 21 great years!

We look forward to many more!

BIRTHDAY





VANESSA DORRINGTON

Office Administrator

Join us in welcoming Vanessa into the Project Lifesaver family! After her brother was diagnosed with Autism, Vanessa has had an interest in learning more about how to care for and aid loved ones. She said, "I am so excited to be working with Project Lifesaver! It's like I always say, when life gives you light, say 'Thank you' and shine! When life gives you darkness, say 'Thank you' and grow!"

SAMANTHA RUSH

Public Relations and Media
Outreach Coordinator

Let's extend a warm welcome to Samantha as she enters the Project Lifesaver family! Having a passion for people and communicating, Samantha finds ways (big or small) to help those around her. She said, "I am overjoyed to be apart of the team! Being able to help those in my community and around the world is so rewarding. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else!"



The PLI Ambassador Program

In 2009, Chief Gene Saunders established the Project Lifesaver International Ambassador Program to honor and acknowledge individuals who have established themselves as leaders in their chosen profession and who can support the mission of Project Lifesaver International (PLI).

Recognition as an Ambassador is not a name-only title. Individuals are selected based on their ability to represent, advertise, and speak for (often as figureheads) the organization. They represent PLI at activities such as new product service launches and demonstrations, organization donation and fund-raising events, mental health conventions, and organization conferences. They extol the mission, objectives, and benefits of PLI in front of individuals and audiences of all shapes and sizes. They brainstorm ideas and participate in training workshops, such as those conducted at the annual PLI conference. They serve to represent PLI whenever and wherever they can. An Ambassador truly is the mouthpiece of the organization, in words and in deeds, by positively projecting the image of PLI in every way possible. Sometimes, Ambassadors have an indirect ability to attract new members merely by the fact that they are known and respected by the public. In short, Ambassadors serve to embody and humanize PLI by representing it positively and genuinely.

From 2009 to 2019, Chief Saunders selected and recognized eight individuals as Project Lifesaver Ambassadors. They have come from a wide range of careers and backgrounds: Broadway, movie, and television acting, racecar driving, healthcare, legal, television and radio personalities, and the military. Biographies of the current Ambassadors are available on the PLI website by clicking on the "AMBASSADOR" link under the "ABOUT US" tab.

However, in early 2020, Chief decided to open the Ambassador nomination capability to anyone within the organization, be that an individual member, member agency or employee. He also includes existing Ambassadors' opinions in the final selection process. Agencies or individuals who wish to nominate someone as an Ambassador should reach out to the Project Lifesaver International Headquarters by phone or email (see below).

Project Lifesaver International Headquarters

Vanessa Dorrington

vdorrington@projectlifesaver.org

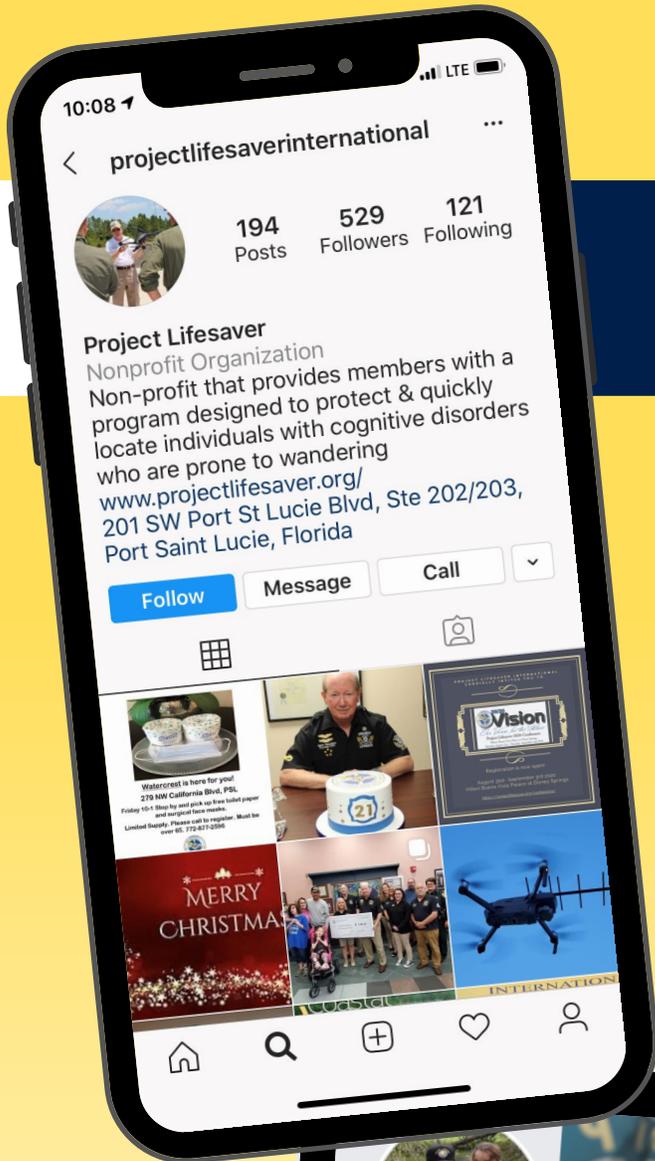
(772) 446-1271, ext. 271

Once contacted, PLI will provide nominators with the Ambassador Roles and Traits article and the 2020 Ambassador Nomination Process article. These documents will assist the nominators in determining the probability that their nominee will be selected.

Project Lifesaver International looks forward to bringing on new Ambassadors and expanding the Project Lifesaver International Ambassador Program. Thank you.

Ron Yeaw

Director of Ambassador Relations



CHECK US OUT!

We enjoy interacting with you on social media!
We also post articles, events, and updates so it's a great way to stay informed!

Twitter: @Projectlifesavr

Instagram: @projectlifesaverintl

Facebook: Project Lifesaver International

