

WANDERING PREVENTION

Wandering can happen quickly and silently. Understanding risks and planning ahead can help keep everyone safer and reduce caregiver stress.

1

Early Warning Signs: Noticing these signs early allows you to act before a crisis occurs.

Wandering often begins with subtle changes, such as: **Why does this happen?**

- Pacing, restlessness, or repetitive movements
- Trying to “go home” or searching for someone or something
- Increased confusion, especially in the late afternoon or evening
- Standing near doors or attempting to leave
- People may wander due to confusion, anxiety, boredom, pain, or a belief they need to go somewhere familiar (work, home, school).
- Wandering is not intentional; it’s often driven by fear or unmet needs.

2

Take Practical Safety Steps & Plan Ahead: Combining daily safety measures with advance planning is essential.

- Install door alarms, motion sensors, or bell chimes
- Use locks placed out of direct sight (high or low on doors)
- Keep car keys secured
- Ensure the person wears identification or an ID bracelet (ShareWear)
- Use tracking tags or tiles in shoes, purses, wallets, or other items the person commonly carries.
- Keep a recent photo and physical description available
- Know common walking routes or favorite places
- Inform neighbors, building staff, or coworkers about wandering risk

sharewear)))
Discount Code: DUBIN15

3

Create structured, engaging routines.

Predictable routines, regular meals, rest, and meaningful activities can reduce restlessness. Safe opportunities for movement, like supervised walks, help meet the need to be active.

4

What to do if someone is missing: Acting quickly can significantly improve outcomes.

If someone goes missing:

- Search nearby areas immediately
- Call local emergency services right away!
- Share the person’s photo, description, and last known location
- Notify neighbors, staff, or community members

5

Local Wandering Resources

ReUNITE
A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE

ReUnite: A free scent kit program through the United Way and local sheriff’s offices. Serves: Lee, Hendry, & Glades County. The primary objective is to reduce search time when an individual is reported missing by a caregiver. Apply online: unitedwaylee.org/reunite

Sharewear information & ReUnite application assistance is available at The Dubin Center. For more information, resources, or support- please call and schedule a consultation with a social worker.