

Vigil held for man missing one year

By Darren Duarte

(Naugatuck-WTNH, Aug. 21, 2005 11:10 PM) _ One year ago this week the search began for a Waterbury man who disappeared without a trace.

There was an extensive search by police and his family, but it has turned up nothing.

Tonight his family and friends gathered in his home town of Naugatuck in hopes that someone might come forward with information on the whereabouts of Billy Smolinski.

by News Channel 8's Darren Duarte

"Our hearts are with you."

It was a time for comforting.

Janice Smolinski says, "The thoughts I am having is just all the love everyone is bringing in and they are giving us the strength to go on."

And it is a time to make the community aware that Billy Smolinski is still missing.

"Someone out there, being at this vigil, will see how much we care about Billy and miss Billy and want him to come home and maybe they will talk," says Grace Smolinski, aunt.

Billy Smolinski was last seen on August 24, 2004 in Waterbury.

An all out search by police and his family have yet to provide any clues.

"It is very important closure on this and Billy is out there somewhere and it is really important that he is back here with his family," says Paula Bell, sister.

The family is praying that the vigil in Billy's honor will move them one step closer to finding out what happened.

"It will be one year that he has gone missing, and no one knows where or why. We need to find Billy and bring him home where he belongs."

Anyone with information is asked to call Waterbury police.

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