

Rally held for missing persons

by News Channel 8's Crystal Haynes

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Waterbury (WTNH) -- One family working hard to locate a missing loved one is reaching out to the community in their quest for justice.

They're holding a rally today to raise public awareness and to teach residents about the importance of safety.

One hundred balloons were released into the sky, each one carrying a hope and a prayer for missing loved ones.

"It gives me new hope for others but for my son they feel he is a homicide and we just need to bring him home. But we don't want other to go through what we've been going through the past four years. And if there's technology there, I'm out there to help spread the word and let the public know that we're not a CSI society, and that we can be with the proper technology" said Janie Smolinski of Waterbury.

Smolinski's 31-year old son Billy has been missing for four years. Since news of his disappearance, Smolinski has become an advocate for new technology to find missing persons.

"Lots of technologies -- the DNA databases, the national registry -- we're still doing the identification kits," said the Executive Director of RADkids, Stephen Daley. "I think it's all about hope. Today's event was all about hope. It was in honor of a man who lost his life, but there were many missing people who were represented today. We can do something, and as a society we have to demand it."

That's exactly what they were doing today with demonstrations and finger printing. That's giving people with missing loved ones an important tool, information.

