

Girl's disappearance 5 years ago brings family back for clues

By Steve Gravelle

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Erin Pospisil would be 20 this summer, five years after she rode off in a black Chevrolet with tinted rear windows.

"I always hope she still is (alive) and that we'll be able to bring her home," said Carolyn Pospisil, Erin's stepmother. "I'm still convinced the answer still lies in Cedar Rapids. There's someone that has more information than we have."

Friends saw Erin get into the car June 3, 2001, in the 100 block of 12th Street SE. The 1990s-model Chevrolet Cavalier wasn't familiar to Erin's friends, but she seemed to know the people inside.

To mark the fifth anniversary of Erin's disappearance — and maybe jog someone's

memory — the Pospisil family returns to Cedar Rapids today to distribute fliers detailing her case. A billboard — "literally a big 'missing' poster" — went up this week along First Avenue East near Coe College, Pospisil said.

"We always have hope. We haven't had any leads that have panned out," said Pospisil, who moved her family to Council Bluffs about three years ago. "You always still occasionally get something that filters in from the posters, or that comes in from a



Erin Pospisil
Disappeared
in 2001



Carolyn Pospisil
Stepmother
remains hopeful

Web site, but for the most part, they haven't gotten anywhere."

Pospisil is seeking volunteers to help distribute the fliers. Volunteers may gather at the parking lot of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 1340 Third Ave. SE, at 9 a.m. today. After the fliers are distributed, a remembrance ceremony and balloon release will be held at the parking lot at 11 a.m.

Today's events are a project of Help Find a Child, a non-profit organization founded by the Pospisil family. The organization has sponsored safety clinics and distributed identification cards for children, and Pospisil has delivered talks to middle school and high school classes.

"The big thing we're working on right now is a sibling support program," she said. "There is no national program that does that."

Pospisil and Erin's younger sister and two older brothers participated in family counseling after her disappearance, "but it was kind of hard to find anyone who knew what to do with it," she said. "You're not really in a grief situation. You're kind of stuck in the middle."

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On the Net

■ For more information on Erin Pospisil's disappearance and other Help Find a Child projects, visit

www.helpfindachild.com

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