

# First 'Walk for Sue' raises funds for cancer fight



**DARTMOUTH** —Tropical Storm Hanna blew through the area on Sept. 6, but a dedicated group of family, friends and caring strangers still turned out to honor the memory of Susan M. Costa.

Along with raising some \$4,200 in the inaugural Walk for Sue, they also helped boost awareness of cholangiocarcinoma, the rare form of liver bile duct cancer that took Mrs. Costa's life

on Jan. 20.

The mother of two young children, she was only 36.

"I would like to thank all the walkers, volunteers and sponsors that helped put the walk together," said her widower, Jeffrey R. Costa, also the president of the Susan M. Costa Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation.

"Without your help, the fundraiser wouldn't have taken place."

Previously, Mr. Costa told The Standard-Times that his wife's illness and subsequent death "has changed the way I look at everything." Now a single parent to Zachary, 4, and Sofia, nearly 2, Mr. Costa said he "documented every moment of those last few months of her life so that our kids will know their mother."

The couple were high school sweethearts, and before her death Mrs. Costa worked as a veterinary technician at Capeway Animal Hospital, as well as serving as the assistant animal control officer in Dartmouth.

Mr. Costa's goal now, he said, is "to help as many people as possible" and educate the public about the cancer that took Mrs. Costa's life only three months after she was diagnosed.

About 3,500 new cases of cholangiocarcinoma were diagnosed in the United States last year, the number is expected to reach 5,600 this year, Mr. Costa said.

For more pictures and information about the walk and upcoming events, go to the Web site at <http://www.susanmcostaccf.org/>. Click on the articles & events link.