



# Family still clings to hope for missing mom's return

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BOGOTA - He still talks about her in the present tense, as if his wife of 18 years took a quick walk and would return at any moment.

The reality is that Patricia Viola stepped out nearly four years ago and has not been seen since that February afternoon. Then 42, the mother of two left behind a puzzling mystery that has stumped her family and investigators.

**WEB LINK:**

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[Patriciaviolamissing.homestead.com](http://Patriciaviolamissing.homestead.com)

Still, Viola's husband and two children cling to the hope that she eventually will be found alive and safe.

Continuing his efforts to spread the message - and, he hopes, find more concrete clues - Jim Viola said the family is kicking off two nationwide campaigns this month to raise awareness about the baffling disappearance.

Under a project called "18-Wheel Angels," truck drivers and business travelers throughout the country will be hanging fliers and posters of Patricia Viola on routes they travel. The locator program is assembled by a non-profit group called Project Jason.

Project Jason also has added Viola to its adopt-a-missing-person program. Under the project, someone can ask for information on Viola, or other missing persons, and will wear her photo button and share her story with others.

Project Jason is a non-profit organization designed to raise awareness about missing people. It is named after Jason Jolkowski, who was 19 when he disappeared from in front of his Omaha home on June 13, 2001.

Viola vanished Feb. 13, 2001, leaving behind her belongings, including her epilepsy medication. Earlier, she had gone to volunteer at a nearby library and called her mother.

"It's basically my opinion that we need the right person to see Pat's face," said Jim Viola. "It could be that she is in a hospital somewhere, maybe someone is taking care of her. But you don't know who will be that person who will help you."

"If we don't keep Pat's face out there, the story is just going to fade away," Viola said.

For more information on Project Jason, call founder Kelly Jolkowski at (402) 932-0095, or visit the Web site at [projectjason.org](http://projectjason.org).

- Carolyn Salazar

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