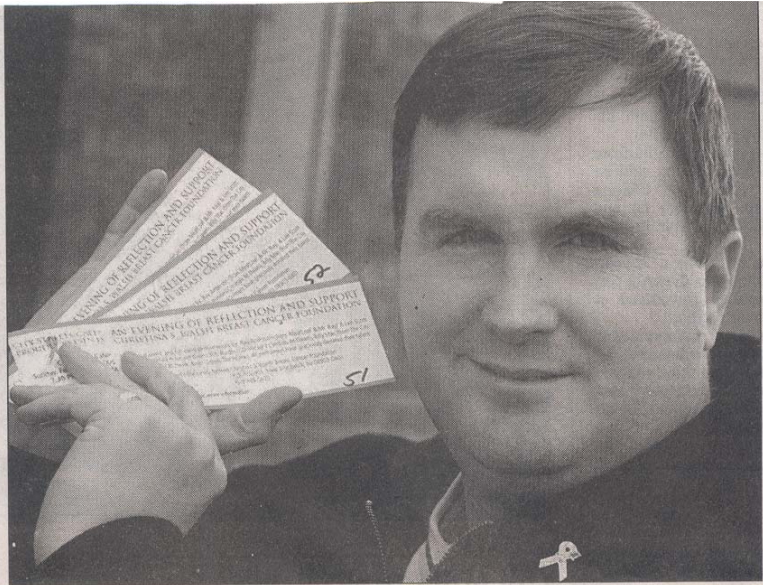


Bob Walsh of East Windsor displays tickets to a benefit for breast cancer in the name of his wife, Christina S. Walsh, who died of the disease. The Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation will hold its first fund-raiser of the year tomorrow.

Staff photos by Martin Griff



Breast cancer fund-raiser

Walsh foundation will hold benefit in East Windsor

By ROSE Y. COLON
Special to The Times

EAST WINDSOR — When Bob Walsh needed a hand after his wife Christina died of breast cancer last August, his community reached out to him.

Donations poured in when neighbors heard of the \$11,000 debt the Walshs had incurred in transporting Christina in a medical jet from Florida to New Jersey. With money left over from covering those expenses, Bob decided to start a foundation in her name.

The Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation will hold its first fund-raiser of the year tomorrow, with proceeds benefiting cancer patients and their families.

"We have literally no overhead. Because of everyone's generosity and people donating their talent, 100 percent of the proceeds will go to the foundation," Walsh said.

"Our hope is that the money raised will go to patients and their families to cover meals, phone, television, parking and hotel stays," Walsh said.

These expenses, he said, are small nuisances that take away precious time you could spend next to your loved one instead of searching for ways to pay them.

What makes this fund-raiser special,



This pink pin, embossed with the initials CSW, was created as a memorial to Christina S. Walsh, who died of breast cancer at age 32.

he said, is the way the community came together.

City Streets Café donated the space and the food, Triangle Printing donated the tickets and the posters. There will be more than 30 door prizes, including gift cards and certificates local businesses and restaurants have donated, Walsh said. "There have been numerous people that have come out through e-mails that I started," said Walsh, amazed at the response from the public. As a result of those e-mails, Major

League Baseball donated autographed baseballs, one of them by Roger Clemens. The New York Giants and the New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority stepped in and donated autographed footballs. "We have approximately 25 raffle items, including signed memorabilia," Walsh said. Among the items scheduled to be auctioned are CDs autographed by Bill Cosby, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Tears for Fears. There is also a poster signed by New Jersey rocker Southside Johnny. A prize Walsh hopes does well is four tickets to the Daily Show by Jon Stewart. Entertainment for the event will be provided by musicians who wish to donate their time and talent. Performing are Ray Anderson (from Meatloaf and Mr. Ray) and Lee Scott Howard, Joe Vadala and Almost Green, Bob Burger, Billy Mac, American Hawk, Brian Urbish and The Wrecks.

Brett Gash, a close friend of the couple, will be DJ. "He played at our wedding, so this is all the more special," Walsh said.

"My wife is the reason I started the foundation. A smile never left her face. She gave the disease respect but she didn't let it control her life. If her name could be a voice for those who struggle with it, then that would be great," Walsh said.

Donation is \$20 for tomorrow's event, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at City Streets Café, Route 130 South.

Donations also may be made to the Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation, P.O. Box 401, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903-0401 or by calling (609) 448-5420.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2005