

# Mother of Cancer Victim Continues Crusade for Help

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Patti Stiewing's daughter died of cancer three years ago, it gave the Shelton, Conn., woman a lifetime job — trying to get people and the government to prevent cancer and help its victims.

Mrs. Stiewing demonstrated in front of the White House last week and met with several federal officials to present her case: that not enough is being done to prevent the disease that claimed her 4-year-old daughter.

As she walked up and down Pennsylvania Avenue, she wore a sandwich board sign. On one side was a picture of her daughter Amber when she was a healthy child, so pretty that she was a model. On the other was a picture of the same little girl after she was stricken with a cancerous tumor that started behind her right ear.

Mrs. Stiewing, whose cheerful disposition and outgoing personality make her difficult to ignore, said she was given a hearing by officials at the National Cancer Institute and the Envi-

ronmental Protection Agency, but they made no promises.

"I was hoping I would just be right there, that I would make a trip and say 'This is what's happening' and everybody would say 'Oh, OK.' I was very naive, but I was hoping that would happen," she said in an interview on the sidewalk outside the White House.

Mrs. Stiewing's message is two-fold — that most cancers have environmental causes and can be prevented and that doctors should pay more attention to alternative cancer therapies. Too little money, she said, is being spent to clean up hazardous waste dumps and other environmental cancer-causing agents.

But she said that even though she did not change the minds of federal cancer officials to pay more attention to prevention and alternative treatments, she is not giving up.

"This will be a life-long thing for me. I will always do this. I know I will," she said.