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MITSU YASUKAWA/THE STAR-LEDGER

Carly Abramson, right, with her mother, Lisa, and dog, Bailey, at their home.

## Keyed up to fight breast cancer

BY MICHELE HOWE  
STAR-LEDGER STAFF

**Who:** Carly Abramson, 17, of North Caldwell.

**What:** Founder and president of the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation

**Quote:** "I don't want to see somebody else suffer, so raising money for breast cancer research and helping people find a cure is important to me," Carly said.

**Mission:** To fund breast cancer research at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York.

**Background:** When Carly was 12, her mother, Lisa Abramson, was diagnosed with breast cancer. The youngster made a beaded key chain to comfort her.

"It was scary. I really, really wanted to find a way to help her, especially since my grandmother (Vivian Bombardieri) had died from cancer previously," the teenager said.

Then Carly came up with the idea to make key chains and sell them to raise funds for cancer research.

With the help of her family and friends, she has sold approximately 1,000 chains and donated more than \$10,000 to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, where her mother has been a patient.

"My wife had a recurrence a little more than a year ago but she's fine now," her father, Andrew Abramson, said. "One of the things we started to understand and appreciate is the relationship we have with Memorial Sloan-Kettering and my wife's

doctor, Larry Norton. That's why there's been such an effort to raise money for research efforts there."

Last December, with the help of her father, Carly formed the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation, of which she is president. Andrew Abramson is president and chief executive officer of Value Companies, a real estate development investment and management company based in Clifton.

"We held our first big fund-raiser, a golf classic, in June at the Mountain Ridge Country Club in West Caldwell," Carly said.

"There were 250 in attendance and we raised \$790,000," her father added. "The success of the event and of the foundation is a great tribute to her and to all of her hard work."

Future foundation events include a breast cancer symposium in the fall and another golf outing next spring.

**Personal:** Carly is a senior at Montclair Kimberley Academy. She has two sisters, Heather and Lauren.

**How you can help:** Log onto [curebreastcancerfoundation.org](http://curebreastcancerfoundation.org)

■ For more information on volunteers, non-profit organizations and other good deeds, visit [nj.com/helpinghands](http://nj.com/helpinghands).

Michele Howe may be reached at [mhowe@starledger.com](mailto:mhowe@starledger.com) or (973) 392-5805.