

North Caldwell teen gets 'keyed up' to fight breast cancer

BY ROBERT V. RITTER JR.
STAFF WRITER

NORTH CALDWELL - When Carly Abramson's mother, Lisa Abramson, was diagnosed with breast cancer five years ago, Carly made her a beaded key ring as a comfort gift.

Carly then, 12, soon got the idea to sell the key rings to raise money for breast cancer research.

Now, after the sale of more than 1,000 key chains made with the help of family and friends, the North Caldwell teen has donated proceeds totaling better than \$10,000 to Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, where her mother underwent



**CARLY
ABRAMSON**

investment and management company in Clifton.

The father and daughter team founded the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation in 2007 to raise funds for breast cancer research. Carly as president and her father as treasurer.

Mountain Ridge Country Club

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The event raised \$790,000 for breast cancer research benefiting the Cure Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF) and Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, which is under the direction of her mother's physician, Dr. Larry Norton.

"The Cure Breast Cancer Golf Classic was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without the help of everyone," said Mr. Abramson.

One hundred, thirty-two golfers took part in the golf event, which was followed by a 250-person reception and dinner.

Her Mother's Illness

Recalling her mother's illness, Carly said she was scared and wanted to help in some way.

"It was scary. I really, really wanted to find a way to help her," said Carly who is a Montclair Kimberly Academy senior this fall.

Carly's mother, Lisa, began inpatient treatment with Dr. Norton at Memorial Sloan-Kettering in 2003, the same year her own mother, Carly's grandmother, died from the disease.

After five years, she is doing well now, but her ordeal has inspired Carly to do what she can to help others afflicted with the deadly disease.

Unlike other charities that raise money for breast cancer research and distribute funds among a number of institutions, CBCF only raises money for Memorial Sloan-Kettering.

"One of the things I appreciate now is the special relationship

we have with Memorial Sloan-Kettering and Dr. Norton," said Lisa, whose breast cancer is in remission.

At the dinner following the CBCF golf classic, Dr. Norton was the featured speaker. He spoke of the advances in breast cancer treatment and other precautionary measures that can be taken.

"Breast cancer can afflict anyone, but there are precautionary measures every woman can take to prevent or slow the progression of the disease until a cure is found," he said.

Norton recommended both monthly in-home self-examinations and taking oral Vitamin D supplements.

"Memorial Sloan-Kettering treats more cancer patients than any other cancer center in the nation," Norton said. "To ensure our ability to provide today's most advanced care and to generate the knowledge needed for

future breakthroughs, the center maintains an ambitious research program that focuses on the disease in all its complexity."

"With a rise in the incidence of breast cancer projected for coming years, Memorial Sloan-Kettering looks to its benefactors for the support it needs to continue to a pacesetter for innovative research and treatment," he said.

Norton also said that the money raised by the CBCF would be used to solely fund two or three new breast cancer research projects under his direction at Memorial Sloan-Kettering.

According to Andrew Abramson, Norton will chair a breast cancer symposium at Mountain Ridge Country Club later this year and another golf event is planned for next year.

For information or to donate, call (201) 396-5112 or email: info@curebreastcancerfoundation.org or visit www.curebreastcancerfoundation.org.