

BREAST CANCER PREVENTION

Bedford student raising money

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition is calling on mothers, daughters, sisters and their loved ones to support breast cancer prevention by participating in the organization's annual Against the Tide swim, kayak, walk or run fundraising event.

Robert Ackerman, a student at John Glenn Middle School in Bedford, has never lost anyone close to him to breast cancer and he intends to keep it that way.

At just 13, he has attended every Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition's "Against the Tide," event since his birth in 1998. His loyalty to the event runs in the family, as his mother, Lisa Freed, has participated in every "Against the Tide" for the past 18 years and is repeatedly the organization's leading fundraiser, having raised over \$20,000 for the cause.

At this year's event on June 18, he will participate for the second year in the 5k run, and for the first time he will team up with his mom for the kayak portion of the event, having kayaked solo last year. The MBCC is the only breast cancer organization locally and nationally that focuses on breast cancer prevention.

"The best thing is Rob has never lost anyone close to him to breast cancer," said his mother. "Prevention is working, treatment is helping, and I'd like it to stay that way. He only knows survivors, and

that's a darn good thing."

Cheryl Osimo, director of event and communication for the MBCC said "Lisa is an inspiration to all of us; she has been a supporter of us since our inception and her unparalleled support that she has inspired in her son Rob is invaluable to the MBCC and its cause," said Cheryl Osimo, director of event and communication for the MBCC.

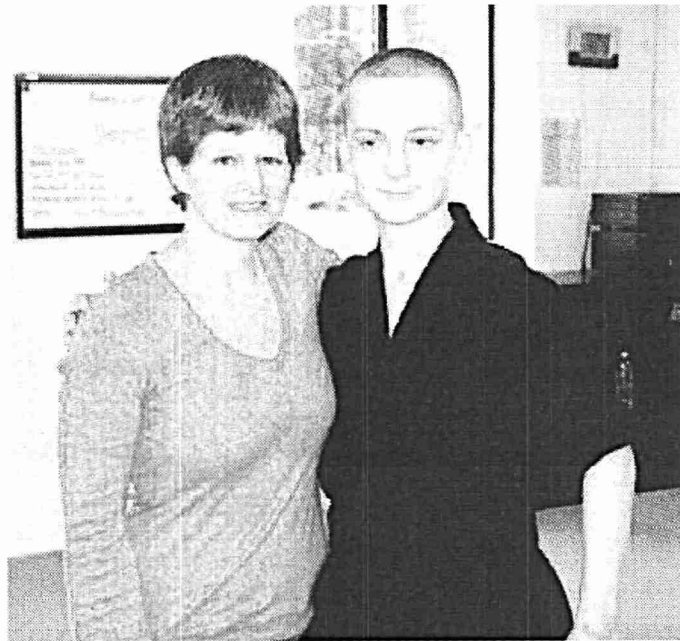
People wishing to pledge a donation to their team may visit firstgiving.com/fundraiser/lisa-freed/againstthetide-hopkinton.

MBCC is a statewide grassroots advocacy organization that seeks answers to what is

causing breast cancer in order to offer changes that will lead towards breast cancer prevention.

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition is asking citizens in Massachusetts to join one of the statewide "Against the Tide" events on Saturday, June 18 in Hopkinton, or on Saturday, Aug. 20 on Cape Cod.

Go to www.mbcc.org/swim and register today. Donations may be sent to the following address: Against the Tide c/o MBCC, 1419 Hancock Street, Suite 202, Quincy, 02169.



Bedford resident Lisa Freed and her son, Robert Ackerman, a John Glenn Middle School student, will participate in the "Against the Tide" fundraising event on June 18 in Hopkinton, which supports breast cancer prevention.

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