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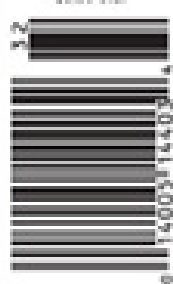
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## RACHEL TOBIN, 19

➤ Rachel turned her love of making jewelry into a fund-raising effort for JDRF. More than 40 percent of each sale goes toward diabetes research.

**A**t age 12, Rachel Tobin should have been concentrating on the same things as most middle-school girls—U.S. history, math, and who's hot/who's not among today's teen idols.

Rachel, though, had a different kind of education to cram for in 2005: living with type 1 diabetes. Her diagnosis forced her to learn about blood glucose tests, site changes, high and low blood sugars, the effects of exercise and food intake, and a new kind math where 1+1 rarely equals 2 when it comes to insulin dosing and glucose results.

"It was a total life change," Rachel says. "And it was a very emotional time for me." It stayed that way for the next year as she adjusted to the changes to her lifestyle.

In 2006, a very mature thought came to someone who had just entered her teens: "I realized that the only thing that's going to cure this disease is research, and research costs money," Rachel says.

Rachel had been spending weekends at her grandmother's house learning how to make jewelry—and she was good at it.

"So I thought I'd make six or seven pieces, sell them to friends and family, and make about \$200 to donate to JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International)," says Rachel.

They sold quickly. So Rachel made some more, and then some more, and soon she had sold a bracelet or

a necklace to every friend and family member with a wrist and a neck.

In search of more buyers, Rachel and her mom, Linda, began visiting retailers in her hometown of Pittsburgh. They found about a dozen willing to sell Rachel's wares, and she went to work making even more bracelets.

When Rachel traveled to visit relatives, go on vacations, or for other activities, she began taking her jewelry with her. Soon a national network of several dozen retailers was in place. Rachel still made each piece herself according to her own designs.

In 2009, Rachel got serious. She registered the business as Rachel's Cure by Design, an LLC, and launched a website, [rachelscbd.com](http://rachelscbd.com). Her mother and a family friend, Margie Dubner, became official business partners and helped Rachel, then 16, by running the day-to-day operations.

Today, Rachel is a freshman at

Emory University in Atlanta, where she's declared a major in biology and enrolled in a pre-med program. Her mom and Margie, along with a handful of volunteers, now handle the assembly and shipment of the beaded jewelry, including the new line of earrings. But Rachel still designs all the pieces and helps assemble them when she's home.

There are dozens of her designs, each unique but for two things: All pieces have a "Made with Love" charm and a "Hope" charm, both made of pewter and nestled

between the glass and lampwork beads, spacers, crystals, and gems. The "Made with Love" charm is there because each item actually is. And the "Hope" charm symbolizes Rachel's faith that a cure for diabetes will be discovered. Even so, she says, buyers often attach personal meanings to the word "hope."

"I never could have imagined it all would have taken off like that," says Rachel. "This is something important for others to know—if you have an idea, just go for it. You never know how it will turn out."

That \$200 Rachel hoped to raise for JDRF? It snowballed into \$50,000 by mid-2012. Next stop, she says, is \$100,000.

## MADE-WITH-LOVE BRACELETS

Rachel's Cure by Design sells about 70 styles of bracelets. Each one is 7–8 inches in length, and prices range from \$35 to \$70. They are sold on her website ([rachelscbd.com](http://rachelscbd.com)) and in boutiques across the country.



The "Hope" charm symbolizes Rachel's faith in a cure, once and for all, for diabetes.