

## Kassy goes to New York City to model in New York Fashion Week

by **Patty Ducey-Brooks**

She's like the Energizer bunny, she keeps on going. I am referring to Kassy Kova who I met early in 2010. Kova and her ice skating partner, Justin Ross, made the front page/feature article for the March 2010 issue. Kova is an impressive young woman. At age 15 she graduated from high school. At age 16, she is a full-time student at Mesa College. Kova and her dance partner, Ross, have earned skating awards and are currently competing. Kova's a professional model, she is fluent in French, and she's a competitive chess player.

Kova's mom, Suzan Cioffi can't say enough about her two daughters. As a single mom, she has made both daughters her priority. And it shows. She's become somewhat of a manager for Kova's multiple careers, and she keeps a close eye on her daughter's activities. She knows Kova has a promising career. She's talented, dedicated, and has set her site on being the best she can be, whatever that is. That's commendable.

San Diego Ice Arena's Ice Dancing Team, Kova and Ross, were off to New York this past month to compete in the Lake Placid Ice Dance Championships. This was at the same time that Kova was modeling for New York Fashion Week. In November, Kova and Ross will be competing in the Junior Division of the 2011 U.S. Figure Skating Pacific Coast Sectional Championships.

Kova and Ross, both students at Mesa College, have developed a strong friendship and a bond that began with ice skating. Kova, who started ice skating at age two, and Ross, who took to the ice at age seven, live near San Diego Ice Arena in Mira Mesa.

Both were raised by single moms who wanted to find something active for them to do that was close to home.

Cioffi, Kova's mom, says she seems to thrive on a fast-paced life, including posing for fashion designer, Jesus Estrada, who earned a coveted spot on "Project Runway's Season Seven."

What I also learned during the discussion with Kova's mom is that it may be hereditary. Kova's grandmother was a model for John Robert's Company in New York. Cioffi speaks glowingly about her 88-year old mother who is as graceful today as she was in her younger years. It may be a natural talent that is afforded by a supportive mom who knows that you have to work at being successful. And she knows that there are sacrifices that prove beneficial.

"We don't watch TV. Instead, we learn languages and compete in chess," offered Cioffi. She knows that quality family time is very important, as is a supportive and stable home environment. She wants her daughters to live their dreams and be happy with the results.

"To work this hard, you've really got to love what you do," said a proud Cioffi. She views Kova as being focused, determined and mature for her age.

In the previous interview with Kova, she was also quick to acknowledge her mom, who she says has become the team manager.

"My mom has taken on two jobs to help us succeed. She handles the media, Web site and publicity, and other administrative tasks."

It's obvious, this family has really benefited from focusing on quality of life, avoiding distractions (like the TV), and following their dreams. Success is something you create and work at. Kova is proof of that.



***Kassy Kova has made modeling one of her dreams come true.***