

Judy Vajak

First recipient of the Godfrey Tanner Memorial Scholarship

The power of speech...

Judy Vajak was the first recipient of the Godfrey Tanner Memorial Scholarship in 2001.

The scholarship fund was established in Godfrey's memory to help students struggling with financial hardship.

While Judy was studying to become a speech pathologist she was also caring for her son, who was suffering from leukemia at the time.

Due to Judy's special circumstances, she received the scholarship for four years running although normally students receive the scholarship only for one year.

Judy successfully completed her degree in 2004. She is now working part-time as a speech pathologist for Hunter New England Health and is also tutoring students at the University of Newcastle. She is also looking to establish her own private speech pathology practice.

Her son Ivan is now also doing well. He's in remission from leukemia and is now in high school.

The difference the scholarship has made in Judy's life has extended beyond the much needed financial support. It also provided encouragement.

"Without the scholarship I think I still would have done my degree, but it would have been at a much slower pace. I probably would have done it part-time which would have taken me twice as long.

"Having the scholarship kept me going. The scholarship helped me pay for textbooks and my student fees. Looking back now the Godfrey Tanner Scholarship was an absolute godsend. It was a really hard time."



The gift that Godfrey and many other contributors to the scholarship fund gave Judy has made a huge difference in not only Judy's life but also Ivan's.

"I want to thank everyone that contributes to this fund. I hope that people continue to support this fund. It can truly make such a difference to students."

"One day I hope I too can create my own scholarship fund and help struggling students as well by giving back."

**Judy and Ivan in 2001*