

## A Family Affair: Inter-generational Social Work Stories

Like the Shortall family below, there are many families that include generations of social workers who have graduated from Memorial. We'd love to highlight other inter-generational stories of our social work alumni. Contact [socialworkalumni@mun.ca](mailto:socialworkalumni@mun.ca) to share your story.



Registered social workers Ian and Judy Shortall, and their daughter Sidney, share their thoughts on the occasion of Sidney graduating with her bachelor of social work degree during Memorial's spring convocation:

Sidney – (class of 2018) “I was so fortunate to be raised in a stable and loving home where I was accepted for being me. My parents have strong morals and values and they taught me to respect and not judge. I learned that the most important things in life are people and relationships. My parents were always so passionate about social work. They were so committed to their clients. As I grew older, I began to realize that I wanted to help people too - just like them.”

Ian – (class of 1986) “My advice for Sidney would be this: be guided by your values and social work principles in everything that you do. Surround yourself with people you admire and respect - people who inspire you to do good work. Most of all, value and be grateful for what you do. Be proud to call yourself a social worker. You are now a part of a profession that helps to improve and change people's lives. For that, we are very proud of you.”

Judy – (class of 1987) “As parents, we were careful not to influence Sidney’s career choice, however we saw signs that she would be suited for the profession very early in her life. As a little girl Sidney was kind and nurturing and possessed a special ability to connect with people and she never passed judgement. As she got older we would marvel at her self-awareness and her ability to think critically which lead to some interesting conversations in our home. We were not surprised that she chose social work as a profession. If I could give Sidney any advice it would be to always remember that working with people at what is often the most difficult time of their lives is an honor and a privilege. There will be some tough times ahead and some wonderful times as well. People, and the relationships we make and nurture, are the only things in this world that really matter. When we truly connect is when the magic happens. We have faith in you but more importantly, have faith in yourself. You got this.”