

A Family Affair: Inter-generational Social Work Stories

Like the Mitchell 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 to share your story.



Registered social worker Troy Mitchell shares his thoughts on his daughter Hillary following in his footsteps into the social work profession, and Hillary weighs in too!

Troy (class of 1996):

“Hillary was raised around many community outings and showed compassion for others. Her mother and I felt she would end up in a helping professional. Ultimately, it was her years as a camp counsellor which firmed her decision to choose social work. I’m really proud of the young woman she has become; she’ll be a great social worker. Hillary has also influenced me. It was a discussion with her as an eight-year-old in 2005 that sparked my international aid activity, which continues today. Hillary was active at many project events with our organization, Two Villages.”

Asked if he had any words of advice he'd like to offer Hillary as she embarks on her social work career, Troy advised:

"Be open and patient with your career. Find an area of practice which engages you and fits your skill-set. Look for mentors and pay attention as they demonstrate the complex nuances of the profession. Maintain your sense of humour - it will serve you well."

Hillary (class of 2019):

"From a young age, I understood that my father was making a difference in the community. As a young girl I spent a lot of time with him at various fundraisers and events, all organized by him. My father was passionate and dedicated to the profession. Although he never did directly encourage me to join the social work field, watching him work in different dimensions of the profession, and advocate for various populations, I was inspired to join. I do not feel that I chose the profession of social work, I feel as though social work chose me."