

Offering mums a chance to live on

Brave mums with terminal breast cancer now have access to a qualified counsellor to assist them in making 'memory boxes' for their children, thanks to a new pilot program funded by people like you.



As a breast care nurse at Mater, Jenny Stevens saw first-hand the impact a terminal breast cancer diagnosis could have on a family. She just never thought it would happen to her.

But in 2009, four years after being diagnosed with breast cancer, doctors gave Jenny the news she feared most—the cancer had spread to her liver and bones.

"I had watched other women with terminal cancer put together letters and information for their children. I kept thinking I wanted to do it but when I'd actually sit down to start, I'd think 'no, no, no'," Jenny said.

Thanks to the generous support of donors like you, Mater Foundation has been able to employ counsellor Judith Gordon to help patients put together their 'memory boxes'.

With Judith's support, Jenny has found the courage to start the heartbreaking task of recording memories and advice for her two children, aged eight and 10.

"It's hard writing to your children but it's important for me that there are memories left behind and memories recorded of me for my family," Jenny said.

"I want these boxes to be a support for them growing up; I want to provide something that will be comforting when times are tough and upsetting."

Jenny said she was thankful to Mater Foundation supporters whose donations helped turn the idea into a reality.

"I'm pleased to know Mater are already looking at possibly expanding the program. It's like ripples in a pond; you don't know how big they will spread," Jenny said.

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Counsellor Judith Gordon with one of the treasured 'memory boxes'.