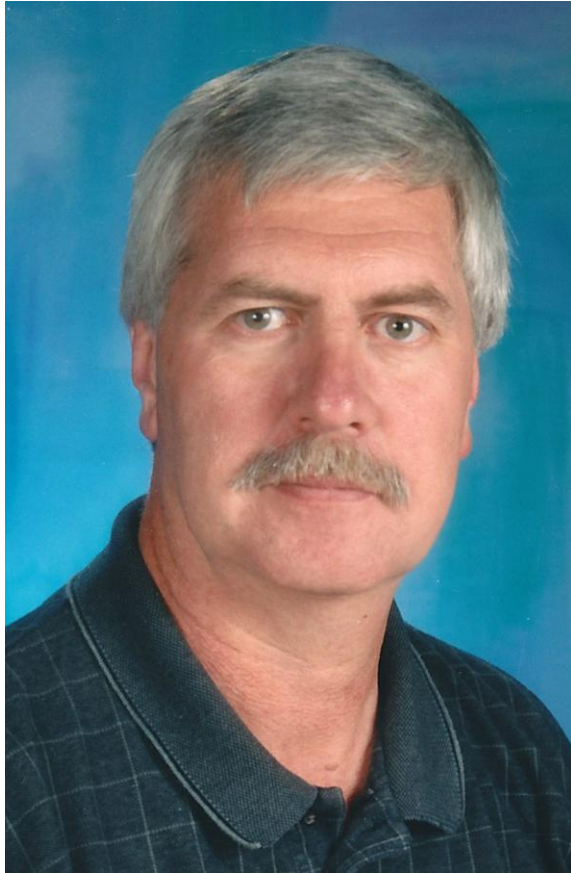


Ronald J. Slosek Memorial Scholarship



Ron Slosek loved basketball! He practiced every chance he could growing up, and to his own amazement, he was good!!! Ron became captain of his high school varsity team as a junior, and continued that honor during his senior year. He entered Westfield State Teachers' College and played varsity basketball as a freshman! Ron would be the first to say that he spent most of his time warming the bench that year, but he still learned that practicing something you love would show good results. By the end of freshman year, he was a respected starter on the team!

Ron transferred to Springfield College and following his graduation, he became a nursing home administrator. His good-natured smile and personable nature made him a natural in this field. Ron loved talking and joking with the elders. It was a dream job for him.

At the age of 50, Ron suffered a heart attack. He decided to retire from the stress of administrative work and became a substitute teacher. Ron felt fortunate to be assigned to Westfield Vocational

Technical High School. He was warmly received there by both students and staff, and he quickly became a favorite substitute teacher.

Ron had coached both his children, Matt and Lori Beth, in their basketball careers. They started together in the CYO league at Blessed Sacrament Church. When Ron was approached by Westfield Vocational Technical High School about coaching, he readily agreed to coach their basketball team.

After several successful years at Voc-Tech, Ron was asked to join the basketball coaching staff at Westfield High School. His teams went undefeated on more than one season. Ron did teach his basketball players about sportsmanship and respect for the game and for the coach, but he never forgot the warmth and welcoming of his Westfield Vocational Technical High School experience. Those players stayed in touch with Ron throughout their educational years and even after they left high school. Their respect for Ron was immeasurable.

Tragically, Ron was killed by a drunk driver in 2005. Throughout his life, he always made sure that whomever he was with at any given time felt his complete attention whether it be his family, the elderly, his students, his players or his friends.

As his family, we feel Ron's life stood for warmth, friendliness, appreciation of every day, and love of friends and family. To honor Ron and all his wonderful qualities, the

Slosek family decided to establish this scholarship as a lasting tribute to him. Matt Slosek and his sister Lori Beth Slosek both live in New York City, so they held a very successful fundraising event there in the summer of 2009 in order to establish this scholarship. The Slosek family is proud to honor Ron's memory by offering this scholarship to a Westfield Vocational Technical High School scholar athlete who is planning to further his/her education.

To the award winner:

- We wish you continued success in your educational endeavors.
- We wish you happiness, success and love in your life.
- We know Ron would be so pleased that this scholarship is in his name.
- Please think of him from time to time, and try to remember his lessons about respect, good sportsmanship, and stopping to smell the roses!
- Every day is a gift! Use it wisely!

Written by: JoAnn Slosek, Matthew Slosek and Lori Beth Slosek
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