

Positive attitude her secret weapon

Story by Rob Rombouts
Photo by Blackbird Photography



A positive attitude can help overcome many obstacles, even when it seems like the universe is out to get you.

Daisy Hoddinott, of Brantford, had worked in the food service industry for nearly 20 years, but the long hours on her feet took their toll, and she required major knee surgery. She soon realized she would need to re-train in order to get a new job and signed up for a Medical Office Assistant Program at [Medix School](#).

On the day she was about to begin her courses, her husband had a heart attack. Daisy delayed her start date.

Her husband's health deteriorated, but Daisy stayed committed to her goals while providing support to him, and to her daughter. Daisy would spend the morning with her husband as he received medical treatment, would go to school in the afternoon, and would then pick her daughter up from work late at night.

When Daisy's husband was in the hospital for surgery, Daisy had to write an exam and still achieved a great mark.

Daisy only has a few weeks left in her course and then starts a placement, which she hopes will lead to a job.

Despite the struggles, Daisy maintains a vibrant personality and positive attitude. She said the experience has given a better outlook on life. "If I can go through all I've gone through to get here anyone can," she said, adding: "I really like using that line on my daughter."

Daisy credits the support of employment services, and the Second Career program for covering the costs of her education. "A lot of people don't know that there are places to help. Ask around, find the help you need, but don't ever quit," she said.

If you set your mind to a goal you can "climb those mountains, smash through those walls and jump those puddles. With a positive attitude, nothing can stop you."

Education Works Alliance is a community group dedicated to building prosperity through training, education and lifelong learning. The group's mandate is to raise the education, literacy and skill levels of Grand Erie residents, in order to broaden opportunities for employments and economic development. For more information visit www.educationworks.ca