

Scholarship awarded to mum of boy with rare disease

BRITTANY BAKER

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ANDY JACKSON/Fairfax NZ

Emma Crofskey wants to see conductive education in Taranaki.

Everyone might have a dream, but one of Emma Crofskey's is coming true.

Her dream of bringing conductive education - a type of training for people with motor disorders - to Taranaki seems to be turning into a reality after winning a \$5000 AMP scholarship on Tuesday.

She was inspired to introduce the rehabilitation programme to the region when her son George was diagnosed with a rare disease that was so unique, it had yet to be named.

ANDY JACKSON/Fairfax NZ

Emma Crofskey said the \$5,000 AMP Scholarship will go to the Conductive Education Taranaki Trust.

"It's called PPP2R5D. It's a relatively new discovery they found maybe last year," Crofskey said.

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"It's amazing they found it. I think there's only 18 people in the world with it."

She said the disease saw widespread symptoms, but those diagnosed were commonly nonverbal and had motor disorders.

"They get there in the end, they're just a few years behind."

Crofskey said her 4-year-old has the potential, but just needed an opportunity to "tap into it".

And travelling to Hamilton once a week to get her son the physical training he needs wasn't a task all families could afford.

As the Conductive Education Taranaki Trust treasurer, Crofskey said she will put the money she's won towards funding a physical location for the trust.

"We're going to have a temporary centre next year," she said.

"I think once people see it's an actual thing, we can get more people talking about it."

Crofskey said the event at the Hotel Novotel was a humbling experience.

"There was such a range of dreams and they were all so amazing," she said.

And, out of 160 applicants and 27 finalists, hers was the one to come true.

HTL Insurance director Lyall Bunn said, though positive, the judging process was quite difficult.

"It's tough to say one person's dream is better than another's.

"But people came up and said it went towards a worthy cause and it was well deserved," he said.

Bunn said the regional event came about after his company made a comment of wanting to see more Taranaki people awarded.

"We noticed national awards weren't coming from the region," he said.

"It's really grown. We like to think of it as our little baby."

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