Beatrice and Joseph Meezan of New York City have created the Judith Meezan Bayha Scholarship in honor of their daughter who passed away from cancer two years ago at the age of 61.

“Judith lost a two-year battle with ovarian cancer in 2005. By establishing this scholarship in her memory, my parents were able to find a sense of closure for their loss while at the same time acknowledging my new position at Ohio State,” explained William Meezan, dean of the Ohio State’s College of Social Work since July 2005.

The scholarship will provide financial assistance to graduate students who intend to pursue a career of helping children age 12 and younger with emotional problems. Preference will also be given to a clinical student who is working with children who have a history of neglect or physical, emotional or sexual abuse.

Judith earned a degree in sociology from Arizona State University. She married while in college and raised three children in Indianapolis, Ind. She had five grandchildren, with another born after her passing. She devoted a great deal of her spare time to social service causes.

William said his parents, who were both first-generation Americans, raised their family in Bronx, N.Y., with his father working in the garment industry and his mother an office worker. “Our mother always worked because she wanted us to have the extras that the other kids in our neighborhood did without,” said William, who is also the first in his family to graduate from college. “I had piano lessons and those kinds of things that working class kids didn’t have.”

Now living in Manhattan, Mr. and Mrs. Meezan have been highly active in volunteer endeavors. Joseph received an award as Outstanding Retiree for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union in America and helped to start a type of sewing circle at Bellevue Hospital that provided every homeless patient with at least one good set of clothing. At 90, Joseph continues to read to the blind and is active politically. Beatrice, 87, was honored several years ago for her AIDS activism by the Gay Men’s Health Crisis in New York.

The first recipient of the Judith Meezan Bayha Scholarship will be announced this year at a special luncheon. William plans to make an additional gift to the scholarship fund annually in his parents’ honor.