

## Heart, Hope and Hardwork

*A true story of heart, hope and hard work. A story of our vision portrayed.....to provide, holistic, compassionate and sustainable care that improves quality of life.....*



**Tywaneesha Stoffels** was admitted to Bethesda last year after suffering hypoxic brain damage as a result of a house fire. On initial presentation she was unable to speak, understand commands or swallow. She had severe spasticity in all four limbs and had only voluntary motor control of her left upper limb. At that stage she had a relatively poor prognosis.

In more simple language she was a nine year old girl who was lying in a bed wanting to communicate, speak, smile and just do the things any healthy nine year old child can do.....but couldn't.

With the hard work, commitment and patience of the Physiotherapist (Scott Rickard), Occupational Therapy Technician (Linda Kleinboo) and the Intermediate Care Facility's team, progress was made on a daily basis. Ty started to communicate effectively; she has good comprehension of simple tasks and is now able to read and do simple arithmetic. She still has spasticity in all four limbs with her right upper and lower limb being most affected. She can however, perform voluntary movements with all four limbs although her control is still not good. In terms of function, she is able to roll to the right from her back to her tummy and back again. She struggles rolling to the left. Her sitting balance was poor and she used to sit in a buggy, however, she is now able to sit comfortably in a normal wheelchair and has good head control. She was also unable to swallow and needed assistance with feeding, however, she is now able to eat on her own with a built-up spoon. After spending time in a school environment it became clear that she has a real hunger to learn and interact with other children. We started investigating possibilities for her and applied for her to be admitted to a local school (Carpe Diem) for children with disabilities. Ty was so excited about this news and whenever she was asked

when she is going to school she would clearly answer "They are going to phone and let us know." The day we got the call that her application was approved the smile on her face was of pure joy, happiness and excitement.



Ty has everyone on their toes now, she has crawled deep into everyone's hearts, has a lovely personality and a sharp sense of humour. She will even inform the nurse when it is time for her medication. Her honest personality often has her telling tales when the other children have been naughty or did something wrong.

She is enjoying every minute of her time at school and we again just realized that this is a testimony of how Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy and the multi-disciplinary team's interventions can create new life for patients like this little girl.



### OUR DETAILS

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