

## Celebrate Success! July 2007 Success Story Tamara Young

Tammy Young is a wonderful 47-year-old woman who always had a smile for the residents of The El Dorado Care Center, despite a dreary medical history significant for Prader-Willi Syndrome.

Prader-Willi syndrome is a congenital (present from birth) disease characterized by obesity, decreased muscle tone, decreased mental capacity, and hypogonadism (low production of hormones). This syndrome is caused by the deletion of a gene on chromosome 15. The majority of patients have a deletion of the father's DNA, but the remaining patients frequently have two copies of the mother's chromosome 15. The maternal copy of this gene is turned off in all people. When there is a deletion of the father's DNA (approximately 70% of patients), the disease occurs. This is because the patient is left with only the inactive, maternal copy.

Sadly, there is no cure for Prader-Willi Syndrome, and it often results in death by the mid to late 20s. But because of the excellent care provided by her mother, Tammy is living a full and healthy life.

On Nov. 6, 2006, Tammy was admitted to Kindred Hospital in Folsom with a diagnosis of aspiration pneumonia, sepsis, and a pneumothorax. Tammy was in critical condition and a Tracheostomy was inserted to allow her to breathe, and a PEG tube was placed for feeding. After stabilizing her medical condition, Kindred transferred Tammy to El Dorado Care Center in Placerville on Dec. 28, 2006, to begin her extensive rehabilitation.

Upon admission, Tammy was unable

to sit up in bed or get out of bed.

Tammy was still being fed by a tube, and was having severe pain in her legs. After 3½ months of intensive Physical, Occupational and Speech therapy, Tammy made a fantastic recovery. On April 20, 2007, Tammy was discharged home with her mother.

Tammy is now able to eat a regular diet, propel a wheelchair independently, transfer out of bed or to a chair with stand-by assistance and can even walk short distances with minimal assistance. Due to the diligence of the Nursing and Therapy staff of The El Dorado Care Center and the diligence of Tammy's mother, Tammy made a dramatic recovery and was able to successfully return home and return to life outside of institutional care. Tammy and her mother are grateful for the care she received, and we at the El Dorado Care Center are proud of Tammy's continuing success and are grateful for having the chance to play a part in her recovery.