

## Champion a strong support for family, and an advocate in the community

Story by Rob Rombouts

Photo by Blackbird Photography



Overcoming obstacles made **Tammy Hendsby** a champion for herself, a strong support for her family, and an advocate for others in the community.

After graduating from high school, Tammy went to work to save money for school. Education had always been important to Tammy but her financial and family situation prevented her from going to college right away.

She left Brantford to provide support for her critically ill mother. After her mother passed away, and Tammy's return to Brantford, she gave birth to a daughter and was soon supporting her brother again, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia and a developmental delay.

The birth of her daughter inspired Tammy to return to school, because she wants to be a role model for her. Her brother's diagnosis inspired Tammy to enter the Developmental Service Worker program at [Medix](#), to be able to help others dealing with mental health issues.

Tammy credits the supports available in the community, and the support of her boyfriend, for helping her succeed. She is considering going back to school to complete a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, but wants to establish a stable foundation for her family.

After all the support she has given, Tammy is glad she is back in school. "I feel good personally," she said "Because I'm finally doing it. I'm doing something for me. Don't let anything hold you back."

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*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](http://www.educationworks.ca)*