

22-year old Hamilton woman ready for a new challenge

For many young people, making the transition from high school to college is a typical experience. For 22-year old Sandra Kumordzie of Hamilton, the journey has been much longer than usual.

When she was 19, the Bishop Tonnos High School student collapsed while visiting her aunt. She was advised that she had a congenital condition called arteriovenous malformation, which caused an aneurysm to rupture. Sandra spent two weeks in a medically induced coma and another 18 months in rehabilitation care.



Sandra returned to school part-time in October 2013 using a wheelchair and, because she cannot speak, Sandra uses a computer mechanism to communicate through a speaker.

HNHB CCAC Care Coordinator Melissa DeRuiters worked with Sandra and her family to create a care plan that provides nursing care and PSW support on a daily basis as her condition is not expected to change.

Despite her health challenges, Sandra is forging ahead with ambition to study graphic arts. She applied to the program at Mohawk College and when the envelope arrived, Sandra's mother Christiana MacCarthy waited patiently for Melissa to get home so they could open the envelope together.



Sandra was accepted by Mohawk College and, together with her mom, will be meeting with college staff over the next few months to discuss Sandra's upcoming year.

"Sandra is doing well and really wants to go to school," said Christiana. "She's a very determined young woman!"

Care Coordinator Melissa says, "Mohawk College has great accessibility learning services and Sandra is really looking forward to getting there."

Sandra is excited to be starting a brand new chapter in her life and we wish her every success on the journey.

Read more about Sandra on the [Bishop Tonnos website>>](#)

[Watch a video of Sandra's family thanking Bishop Tonnos school students for support her and welcome back to school>>](#)