

Inspiring Lives

35 year old Tammy Watts has been receiving services from MORC since her late teens. While she has always been interested in writing, she got serious about it in her late twenties.

Tammy, who has cerebral palsy and scoliosis, can type with one hand and also uses Dragon Naturally Speaking software to help her write. The supports she receives from her MORC Support Coordinator Christine Loynes and Psychologist Julie Frei have helped Tammy increase her confidence and improve her socialization skills. She now participates in writing clubs and interacts with other writers on various websites.

Tammy is a very prolific writer who likes to write about a variety of topics. She has completed two science fiction themed novels, with a third in the works to complete the trilogy.

One thing that is very important to Tammy in her writing is the accurate portrayal of persons with disabilities. All of the main characters in her novels are persons with disabilities and she has also written many articles tackling discrimination against those with disabilities, as well as highlighting her own life experiences as a person with a disability trying to navigate the school system and the community. "Part of it is write what you know," she says. "I also think it is rare to see persons with disabilities portrayed well or accurately in most books or TV shows. I'm trying to change that."

In addition to novels and articles, Tammy also writes poetry. "While novels tell a story, poetry is more of an emotional outlet," she says. In fact, Tammy credits her writing with helping her communicate more effectively in all areas of her life. "Writing allows me to organize my thoughts better and I have more time to make sure I'm expressing what I think and feel more clearly," she says.

Tammy writes under the name Tammy Dreamwriter. "One of my best friends called me 'Dreamwriter' as a nickname," she says. "He passed away before seeing any of my work published, so I decided to adopt it as my pen name in honor of him."

Looking towards the future, Tammy will continue writing with the hopes of getting some of her work published. "I have so many ideas," she says, "I have to keep going." She will also be contributing articles to the MORC website Knowledge Base.

