Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When Care Empowers You

April W. - Cordova, Tennessee

That's Medicaid *shares stories of people covered by Medicaid at critical points in their lives, underscoring the importance of stable health insurance coverage in building a Culture of Health.*

April was born with sickle cell anemia, a genetic blood disorder that is deeply painful and must be managed with proper medication. After years of successfully managing her condition, she was working as a teacher's aide and caring for her two children when she developed an infection during routine treatment and it caused her to go into a month-long coma and lose both of her legs.

Following the infection, the care she received through Medicaid was a saving for April and her family. The program covered essential items like her electric wheelchair and medication, as well as opportunities that helped her recover, such as access to a local fitness center.

"Medicaid allowed me to remain mobile and have some normalcy in my life," April says. "It's a blessing, and I don't know what I would have done without it."

Today April is rebuilding her life, and as part of this is working as an advocate and motivational speaker to help support other people with sickle cell anemia.

"Medicaid means I don't have to choose between food and my medications." she says. "It lets me take care of myself and my family, as well as advocate for others with this disease."