Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When You Need Help Getting Back On Your Feet

Carolyn T. - Shawnee, Kansas

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.*

For **Carolyn**, life was full of hard work—she held two jobs and was without health insurance while raising her two children. After cracking her hip during a fall at home, she was unable to work and needed support. "I refused to go to the emergency room because I couldn't afford the costs," Carolyn says. "I couldn't take on that debt."

With the encouragement of her family, Carolyn went to a local clinic where she discovered the severity of her injury. The doctor there recommended she apply for disability coverage through Medicaid. Carolyn heard negative stereotypes about people on the program, but she realized she needed the help and applied for aid.

Medicaid's coverage proved to be crucial and let Carolyn access the surgical procedures and medications she needed for her hip. It also provided Carolyn with the behavioral health treatment she needed following the tragic loss of her son to gun violence. "If I didn't get Medicaid when I did, I don't think I would be here today," she says.

Today Carolyn's condition is much improved, and she is on her way to rejoining the workforce. Carolyn is now a full-time college student and aims to become an administrative assistant once she graduates.

"Medicaid helped me get physically, mentally, and emotionally well so that I could return to school and get back on track." Carolyn says.

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