Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When Coverage Saves a Life

Milly D. - Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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.*

Milly D. was working and studying to complete her college degree when she became pregnant. Because she was in her fifth year at the school, Milly was ineligible for student-based health coverage and had to go to a local clinic for care.

At 23 years old, Milly was introduced to Medicaid.

The support provided by Medicaid covered Milly throughout the pregnancy and postnatal process. However soon after the birth of her son, she needed the coverage for a different reason—a doctor discovered a lump in her chest, which was revealed to be breast cancer.

Milly was covered for the early detection and treatment of breast cancer and made a successful recovery.

"Medicaid not only took away the financial burden, but also the stress," she says.

Milly secured a job post-graduation and after 18 months on Medicaid switched to private insurance.

Today she and her two children are healthy, and Milly owns a local law firm.

"Everyone deserves to have a backup when a health crisis hits," she says. "For me, Medicaid was that back up."