Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

# When You Care for a Family

Jessica R. - Sandpoint, Idaho

***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.*

While pregnant, **Jessica** contracted the condition cytomegalovirus (CMV), and it resulted in her daughter Natalie being born with a disability.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about one in every 200 babies is born with a congenital CMV infection, and of those, one in five will have long-term health problems.

Since her birth, Natalie has needed constant support from both her mother and medical care providers, and Medicaid covered the many surgeries and prescriptions the family could not otherwise afford.

"There's no way we could've kept up with all the costs on our own," Jessica says. "Medicaid covers the medications we need for Natalie."

The program in Idaho also provides valuable resources like in-home care and wheelchairs for Natalie. Because of these benefits, Jessica says the coverage makes it possible for Natalie to live with her family at home instead of living in an institution.

"Medicaid makes it possible for those with disabilities to function in their own home and community," she says.

Natalie has grown up healthy because of these services, which Jessica says has been a huge stress relief.

"We don't have to decide between groceries and the doctor," Jessica says. "I don't know what we would've done without Medicaid."