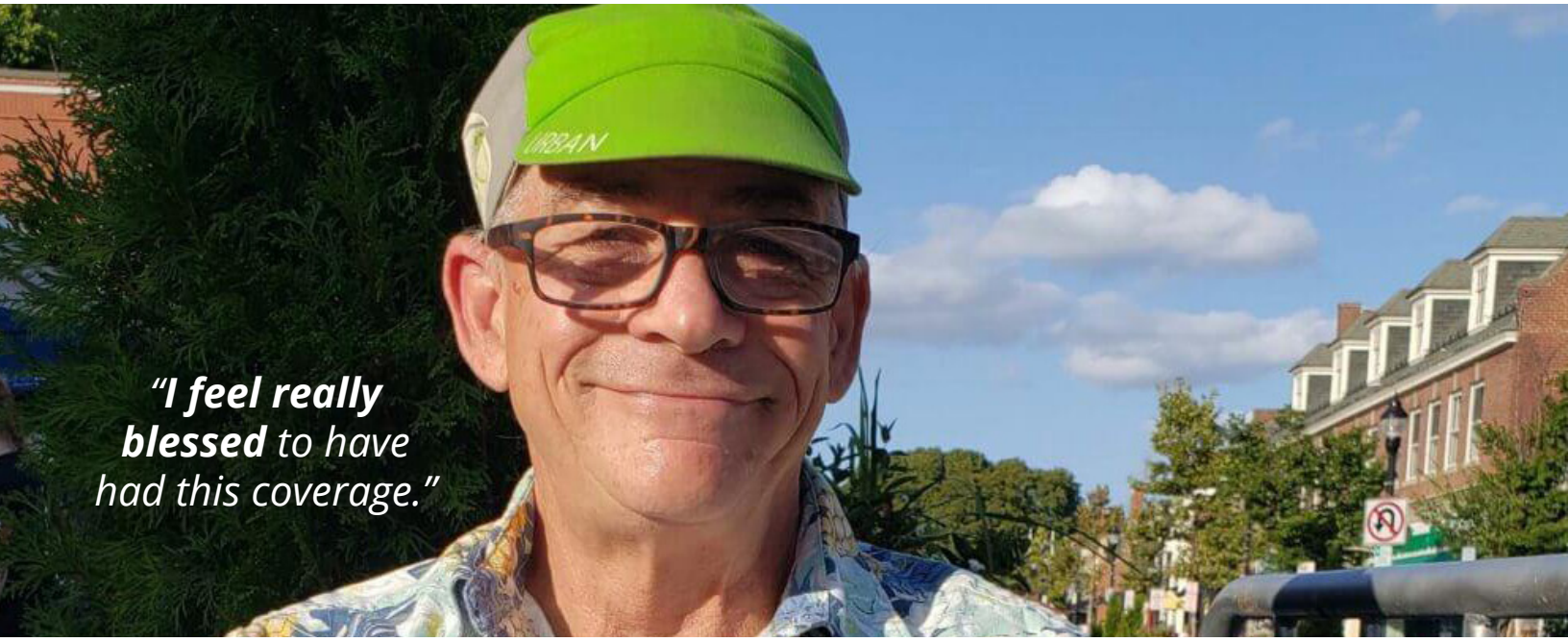
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When the Unexpected Happens

John L. - Watertown, Massachusetts



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.*

John describes his lifestyle as that of modest means.

He is self-employed and does construction, landscaping, and general maintenance work, often without benefits or health insurance.

Now in his early 60s, he was living for a number of years with a hernia, but in August 2020 it became strangulated, sending him to the emergency room in a nearby hospital and eventually into surgery.

After being discharged he feared the cost of the operation would set him back indefinitely, but a local nonprofit helped him apply for Medicaid, bringing him a great deal of relief.

"I feel really blessed to have had this coverage," he says.

While he will be on Medicare in a few years, Medicaid is providing him a "peace of mind" for now.

"I'm on the mend now and feeling like a million bucks," John says.