Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When You Need to Bounce Back

Theresa G. - Lakewood, Washington

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.*

Theresa and her husband relocated to her home state of Washington after he left his position in the armed forces and she moved on from a job at a local college.

As the family resettled, her two-year-old daughter became very ill. A very high fever resulted in visits to an urgent care clinic and a pediatric emergency unit. Fortunately, they had temporarily enrolled in Medicaid. "It was really beneficial for us to have that coverage so our daughter could get care without draining our savings," says Theresa.

Medicaid also covered Theresa's daughter's wellness appointments and virtual speech development appointments, as well as Theresa's own prenatal care. The backstop Medicaid provided for the family during this transition was vital.

Theresa quickly found a job as an education counselor at a military base and will have health insurance though that position, no longer needing Medicaid.

"Medicaid helped a lot for those unexpected things you don't see coming," Theresa says. Thankfully it was there when we needed it, so we didn't have to choose between health care and other essentials like paying rent while I transitioned to a new job."