



# When the Future Looks Uncertain

Maria P. - West Fargo, North Dakota



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*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.*

Within a few hours of **Tyler's** birth, medical professionals noticed he had some abnormalities and took him to the intensive care unit. Shortly thereafter, his parents signed up for Medicaid through assistance at the hospital. The program has supported him since.

Diagnosed with Sotos syndrome, a condition that can result in overgrowth and delayed development, Tyler attends a local high school but requires a great deal of assistance.

His mother says he frequently has doctor appointments, and requires new leg braces every year, as well as a specialized hearing aid and extensive surgeries—which are covered by a combination of Medicaid and private insurance.

Tyler will move into adulthood in a few years and his family is preparing for his next stage in life.

"For the last six months we've been getting a game plan together for Tyler's future," says his mother, Maria, who takes care of her son full time while his father works as a truck driver, often six days a week.

Because of her family's experience, Maria became a parent-advocate for Medicaid and has provided guidance to others who are new to the program and need help to begin receiving its benefits.

"There are so many aspects of his life that are uncertain and scary," Maria says. "Medicaid will be there to take care of some of that."