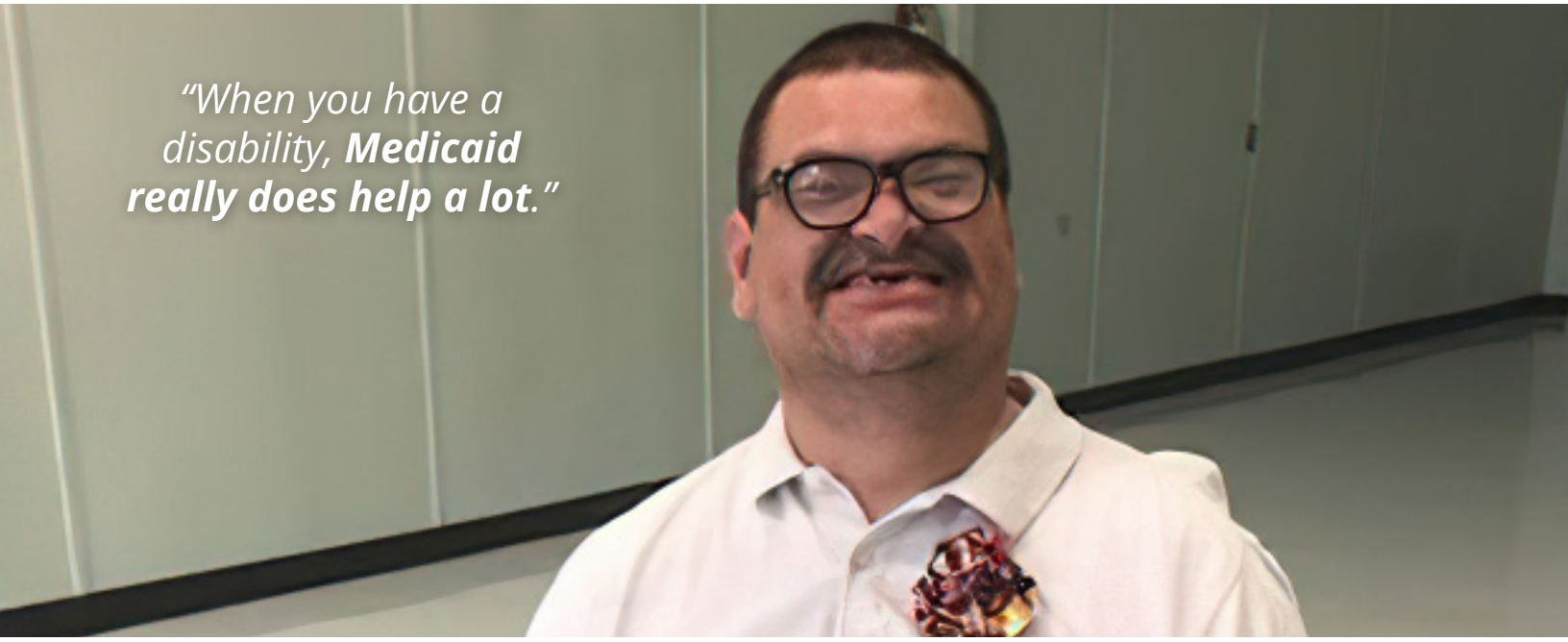
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Support Means Independence

Juan M. - Austin, Texas



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.*

Now in his late 40s, **Juan** was born with cerebral palsy, a disorder that affects his ability to move and maintain posture. This hinders his capacity to do necessary tasks such as cooking and laundry, requiring assistance in his home almost every day.

"If I had to do the laundry myself it would take me three to five hours," Juan says. "With an attendant it takes an hour and a half."

In addition to the in-home help, Medicaid provides assistance with the cost of medical bills and needed drugs, and allows Juan to live without the restrictions some people with his condition face. It also provides him the opportunity to do what he loves—driving. He currently works part-time as a personal driver, which he has been doing for many years.

Juan knows the value of Medicaid and advocates for the program in his state capitol, seeking to press lawmakers to expand it under the Affordable Care Act. If Texas were to do so more people with disabilities would be able to receive Medicaid coverage, which is very important to him. He also advocates for increased wages for attendants like his.