Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When You Participate in the Community

Maddy K. - Columbus, Ohio

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.*

Medicaid provides essential transportation to **Maddy**, a 23-year-old who has Asperger syndrome, a developmental disorder affecting the ability to effectively socialize and communicate. Because of this assistance she is able to work two part-time jobs, volunteer frequently, and be part of a community organization for those with disabilities.

"Medicaid has been beneficial in every aspect, in every which way," she says of the program, which has supported her since age 10.

Maddy is helped by Ohio's Medicaid Level One Waiver plan, which is for people who do not need many paid support staff to provide services. It offers everything from home-delivered meals to money management, in addition to the transportation her family truly relies on. The program also helps cover some of her medical needs.

"Medicaid has provided so much for me," Maddy says.

Now a graduate from a state university program for students with special needs, Maddy has a combination of health coverage from her parents and Medicaid, which will continue for at least the next few years. Her jobs as a teacher's assistant at a preschool and a coffee shop do not provide the coverage she needs, but employer health insurance in the future is not out of the question.

On top of the time Maddy spends teaching and serving customers, she has been a lead volunteer for a community race to raise money for lung cancer research and awareness of the disease, participates in blood drives every few weeks, and often helps at a local food bank.

"I love volunteering," she says.

To put it simply, Maddy is a young woman on the go.