



# When a Home Is an Opportunity

Nicholas J. - Arlington, Virginia



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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.*

As a result of his autism, **Nicholas** requires some extra assistance with daily activities such as cleaning, cooking, and exercising. But that hasn’t stopped him from living a full, independent life.

Nicholas is a proud COVID-19 front-line worker who arrives early in the morning three days a week at his job in a grocery store to stock shelves and ensure customers have the food they need.

“I’m happy that I’ve been able to do important work during the pandemic for people in my community,” Nicholas says. “Keeping people fed seems like something small I can do, and it has helped me feel less anxious this year.”

Nicholas lives on his own, and he credits Medicaid with helping to make that possible. A waiver program covers all of his caretakers and provides

him with transportation to and from his job. He credits this freedom with giving him a sense of direction.

“It’s been life-changing. I was so anxious and a bit aimless after high school, and so getting to be independent gave me joy, confidence, and freedom,” Nicholas says.

With necessary services covered Nicholas is able to take part in a wide range of activities in his community, from his job to a book club to yoga. His wish is that others can find a similar path toward independence.

“I think the message I want to convey is hope,” Nicholas says. “Medicaid benefits allowed hope for a more independent and adult future than I could have achieved alone. And I’m so grateful.”