Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

When You're There for Family

Sonia J. - St. Louis, Missouri

*"Medicaid has been a **blessing for us**."*

***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.*

After surviving breast cancer and two kidney transplants, **Sonia** was forced into early retirement. Shortly thereafter she took on the life-changing responsibility of adopting a family member's young son Amir, who has developmental disabilities.

Born prematurely, Amir has required extensive treatments to ensure he remains healthy. From preventive doctor visits and X-rays to speech and occupational therapy, he needs a wide range of health services and Medicaid covers it all.

"I couldn't afford to care for his medical expenses myself," Sonia says. "Medicaid has been a blessing for us."

Sonia herself is not on Medicaid, receiving coverage through a combination of Medicare and a private plan, but she is grateful the program has been there to ensure a safe start for her new family.

"It really helps to have these services covered," she says. "Through the therapy we've seen such improvement in Amir's development. It would be very difficult without Medicaid."