"I knew there was a ***big need in our area*** *for treatment, so I ventured out and opened my establishment."*

Paying It Forward

SILVIA H. – FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA

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.

When **Silvia** created Go Play Therapy, an establishment which provides access to occupational and speech therapy for children on Medicaid, she knew she was creating an opportunity for many that did not yet exist in her rural home of Fort Payne, Alabama.

"**I knew there was a big need in our area for treatment, so I ventured out and opened my establishment**," she says. "**We've been able to provided needed services for children throughout Alabama for the past six years**."

Silvia also knows the importance of access to treatment personally, following her own experience with Medicaid. When both of her children were diagnosed with cystic fibrosis Silvia turned to Medicaid, which fully covered her sons' medical bills. As a mother with children on Medicaid, it was then that Silvia understood the impact Medicaid has on families who need support.

Incorporating her own experience, Silvia uses Go Play Therapy not only as an opportunity to help families with children on Medicaid but to educate other parents on the benefits of the program.

"I try to educate families on any service that might help them, telling a parent that they can apply for a gas waiver can get a child to their next appointment," says Silvia. "I've seen parents at their wits end with bills, and all they needed was a push to apply for Medicaid and get the help they need."