When You're Ready to Work

BRIANNA B. – BELLA VISTA, ARKANSAS

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.

Chronic health issues that began in 2015 eventually led **Brianna** to become a home health aid—a profession she finds truly rewarding.

"**I take care of people and help them get through their daily activities**," she says.

"**It makes a big impact on their life**."

Without Medicaid, however, she would not be able to do the job. Now in her late 20s, Brianna first signed up for the program in 2016 after her home state of Arkansas expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act a few years later. Because of it Brianna was able to receive diagnostic procedures that eventually determined she suffers from endometriosis and fibromyalgia, both of which are very painful and left her unable to work for two years.

The medication she needs would cost over $1,000 monthly out-of-pocket, but Medicaid covers the expense and any other medical attention she needs, which allows her to work and support family members.

"There is a stigma that people on Medicaid don't want to work, which you hear all too much," she says. "A lot of people depend on it to work and function in daily life like anyone else."

Brianna also underscores how the people she helps through her work become part of an extended family.

"Medicaid is really important for me," she says. "I don't know what I would do without it."