



When You Want to Make a Difference

Jeannine G. - Port Lavaca, Texas



“Poverty in a rural area looks different from poverty in a big city. Medicaid levels the playing field and allows rural patients to receive equitable care. With each visit, you can see how fortunate these families are to have access to healthcare and what a huge difference Medicaid has made in their lives.”

Jeannine Griffin has worked as a general pediatrician at Lavaca Clinic Associates for more than 30 years. Her clinic is in a rural area on the Texas Gulf Coast. Since the nearest pediatric hospital is an hour and a half away, she and other physicians work to address the bulk of pediatric problems so that families with limited resources do not have to travel far to access care.

Jeannine reports that about 50% of her patients are enrolled in Medicaid, and she has seen firsthand how access to health coverage has brought peace of mind and improved their health outcomes. Jeannine says Medicaid has given her patients access to essential services like wellness exams, immunizations, counseling, and early childhood intervention. Jeannine says these services, specifically wellness exams, are critical to catch mild symptoms in children that, left untreated,

could lead to poor developmental and physical outcomes. She says when a child has access to routine care, they are more likely to receive consistent treatment and have a better prognosis, both physically and developmentally.

Jeannine says there is something special about working in a small town; these aren't just her patients, they're her neighbors. So, she is committed to ensuring they receive the care they need. She says anytime a new patient comes in without insurance, she recommends they consider applying for Medicaid and helps facilitate enrollment if they qualify.