



Colorado Health Care Stories

Aimee Theelan, Manitou Springs

“Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, I was able to retire at age 62 after over 20 years working as a Registered Nurse. Retiring at age 62 was only possible because I found a very affordable health plan for my family through Colorado’s health insurance exchange. Before the ACA my family could never have gotten an affordable plan because of my pre-existing condition, Osteopenia.

Working as nurse, I saw firsthand the greater impact of the ACA. The difference between before and after the law’s passage was night and day. Suddenly, I saw ER filled with insured folks that actually had an emergency—not just uninsured individuals who had nowhere else to go.”



Christy Zollar, Fairplay

Christy had intense spinal problems and a myriad of injuries before the Affordable Care Act passed, but avoided getting the care she needed because she was terrified of being diagnosed with something that could be considered a pre-existing condition. After the ACA passed, she qualified for Medicaid under the expansion of the program. Thanks to her coverage, she was able to see a doctor of osteopathy, and for the first time in 20 years got help with her spinal injury. “Being able to see a doctor of osteopathic medicine who can do structural work was never a possibility for me before the ACA.”

Additionally, while covered through Medicaid, Christy and her family were exposed to toxic black mold and acquired mycotoxin poisoning, which caused serious damage to their gums. Thanks to their Medicaid coverage, they had access to the dental coverage they desperately needed. Recovering for mycotoxin poisoning can take years, so it’s critical that Christy and her family maintain their access to the care they need.