



Endurance - a BridgeS Story



Maria's Story

Maria is a full-time Baylor Scott & White employee covered under Scott & White Health Plan. Nine months ago her life drastically changed after undergoing surgery to correct her left foot. Complications during the surgery led to a damaged main nerve and left her unable to walk normally. Two months post-surgery Maria could hardly muster the strength to stand up, and the crutches she would have to use for several months left her mobility severely hindered. Maria made an appointment with an orthopedic doctor who traded out the cumbersome crutches for a walking boot and cane.

Maria was able to return to work, and though the boot and cane brought her some much needed pain relief, it made walking uncomfortable and hindered her mobility greatly. Maria eventually made another follow-up appointment with her doctor and was prescribed for an AFO Arizona customized brace which she would have to wear for no less than 18 months, due to the nerve damage in her foot. The brace would weigh significantly less than her current boot, and provide greater mobility and ease of use. One problem stood in her way - the brace was way out of Maria's budget, even with insurance covering some of the cost.

Through the Baylor Scott & White Social Work department, Maria was connected with BridgeS to Wellness and Health. Through BridgeS, she was able to get the financial assistance for the brace she so desperately needed. Since receiving the brace, Maria has been able to return to work, and the pain she was experiencing is significantly less.

BridgeS to Wellness and Health is a collaborative strategy between the United Way of Central Texas, Baylor Scott and White Health, the Temple Community Clinic, and Body of Christ Clinic. BridgeS works with underinsured and uninsured clients who are unable to afford the necessary prescriptions, durable medical equipment, medical supplies, and transportation to maintain or improve their health status. The goal is to bridge the gap to health care coverage while a client awaits approval in a long-term assistance program and reduce the number of people returning to the hospital for preventable conditions. 100% of BridgeS funding comes from charitable contributions to the United Way from employees throughout Temple and Belton.

