



Perseverance - a BridgeS Story



Robert's Story

Robert is a dedicated father, husband, and full-time worker in Temple. He works hard and plays by the rules. Even though he has health insurance for his family, he didn't know where to turn after his wife needed an emergency liver transplant surgery. Money became tight. Between starting a new job, regular trips to and from Dallas every weekend to visit his wife in the hospital, and spending enormous amounts of money on various medications for her, their bank account quickly became depleted.

Then, a routine visit to the pharmacy for his own medication turned into a nightmare when, unbeknownst to Robert, an administrative change in his health insurance plan meant that his insurance would no longer cover all of his prescriptions. Robert now had to pay full price out of pocket for most of his medication. Robert, a diabetic, soon found himself sacrificing his own insulin medication to make ends meet, which led to dire consequences. He soon found himself in the ICU fighting for his life with a blood sugar level far exceeding normal. While in the hospital, Robert received the insulin medication needed to restore his blood sugar level; however, a critical problem remained—he still did not have the money to cover his prescriptions moving forward, so the likelihood that he would return to the hospital again soon was very high.

Before leaving the hospital, Robert was connected with BridgeS to Wellness and Health. Through BridgeS, he was able to get the financial assistance for the insulin he so desperately needed to bridge the gap, while also getting enrolled in the appropriate pharmaceutical manufacturer prescription assistance program to help him receive long-term assistance for his medication. Robert has made a full recovery and is back at work supporting his family and, most importantly, has access to the medication he needs to remain healthy.

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.



Robert, a guest speaker, and his wife at the 2015 United Way Leadership Breakfast.