

Care for the **Common Good**

What Medicaid Means

Trinity Health Senior Communities

Affordable health care should be accessible to all. Medicaid provides a lifeline for 72 million Americans, including children, older adults and people with disabilities. Seniors count on Medicaid to access long-term nursing home care and programs that allow people to age in place instead of an institutional setting. Congress should preserve and protect access to Medicaid for all Americans.

The Face of Medicaid in Our Community

A veteran of the United States Army, Robert Barner served his country in Germany as a cook. He met his wife, Natalie, after leaving the military, and though he didn't talk much about his time in service, she knows he was proud of his sacrifice and accomplishments. Robert went on to build a career as a quality inspector at General Motors Chevrolet in Warren, MI, and he and Natalie (pictured below) built their family.



In his advancing years, Robert suffered a stroke and could no longer walk. "I couldn't take care of him," Natalie explained. "He needed more than I could do." As she considered skilled nursing options, she discovered just how expensive it could be and was very grateful for Medicaid assistance. "I wouldn't have been able to afford to stay in my home if we had to pay the nursing home," she said. "But, I desperately needed their help."

When it came time to arrange long-term care for Robert, they selected Fraser Villa, a Trinity Health Senior Community in Fraser, Mich. Natalie was still working, so it was important that Robert's skilled nursing community be an easy commute from her job and home. In addition, decades earlier, Robert's father had resided at Fraser Villa, and Natalie had fond memories of visiting her father-in-law there.

Now, Natalie is happy that she can visit her husband in a safe, comfortable space where she knows that he is receiving the care and attention he needs. "Medicaid was very important in making this possible," she said. "We couldn't have done this for him without it."

Fraser Villa Administrator Claire Collier explains that Medicaid and Medicare funding are critical for families seeking round-the-clock nursing care for their loved ones. "Medicaid and Medicare are essential for a great number of the older adults entrusted to us because of the cost of their individual care. To serve a resident like Mr. Barner, who dedicated his time, talents and skills to his country, is our honor. As families make choices about how best to care for a loved one with medical needs, resources like Medicaid and Medicare have a significant impact not just on the resident, but on the family as a whole."

Medicaid By the Numbers: Nursing Homes



1.4M

Americans live in Nursing Homes



62%

enrolled in Medicaid

Leading Age