

# RITE CARE WORKS *for:*

## ANN MCCULLEY Newport, RI

Mother of two, grandmother of four  
Employed as Call Center Agent



### *My Rite Care story:*

Rite Care has not only helped my two grandchildren, but also my daughter who has a serious disability. She has not been able to receive SSI and her doctors will not allow her to work. She is very weak and can only leave the house for doctors' appointments. Before she was able to receive Rite Care, she had to stop taking a couple of heart medications because she couldn't pay for them. If we did not have Rite Care she wouldn't have any medical coverage for her or her two children.

My son-in-law left the home in 2003 which left my daughter alone to raise two children. Many family practice providers and specialists accept Rite Care which is a huge blessing to my daughter. Due to my daughter's medical condition she has also been in need of emergency services. If a co-pay is introduced, she may not be able afford to be seen at the emergency room.

My other daughter has two children and is expecting another child in November 2008. Without Rite Care she wouldn't be able to afford the pre-natal care she needs in order to deliver a healthy baby.

She is married but her husband has been unable to work until two weeks ago due to a heart condition. He had to stop taking his heart medications because he didn't have health insurance. My daughter was just informed that she will lose FIP and food stamps due to his income but will stay enrolled in Rite Care because his employer doesn't offer health insurance. This will mean he will be able to begin heart medication again. If the income limit is lowered for working families, this may mean that my daughter's family will lose Rite Care coverage, leaving them in dire straits.

I speak for my family and others when I say the loss of Rite Care or even adding small co-pays or monthly premiums could literally mean life or death to people with low income who are now enrolled in the program.

# RITE CARE WORKS *for:*

## ANNIE LABOSSIERE Wakefield, RI

Mother of one child  
Business Owner - [AwayWeeGotoRI.com](http://AwayWeeGotoRI.com)



### *My Rite Care story:*

I am a parent facing the loss of Rite Care benefits. I suffer from clinical depression and have recently learned I may be bi-polar as well. Thinking about how I will manage my well being without health care coverage is frightening.

Here is a glimpse of who we are and what we do for Rhode Island: my husband and I own our home, we pay our property taxes, we donate blood, we volunteer in the community, we are raising a vibrant and intelligent daughter, we are business owners and we supplement our income with part time jobs. You will see us at beach clean-ups, you will see us reading at the library, and you will see us supporting local businesses. And yes, we manage to do this currently earning between 133% and 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) - \$23,409 to \$32,560 a year for a family of three.

Not only are my husband and I at risk of losing our insurance coverage, but for my daughter to continue receiving benefits, we may have to pay a cost-share of \$45 a month. At this time of rising food and fuel costs, this means tougher decisions for us.

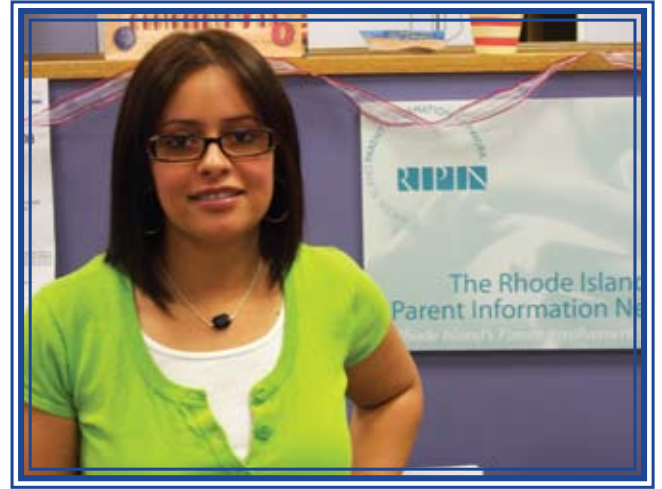
I now look to a future without health benefits. Do we go without? Do we take huge financial losses we invested in our businesses and close our doors to return to the shrinking workforce? If we did this, what are the chances a private company in our state's current economic condition would hire either one of us and provide the benefits we so badly need? Would we be better off? One thing for sure I know is that letting my depression go untreated only means a decrease in productivity and ability for me to earn money, not to mention my husband losing his wife and my daughter her mom, as I slip away without access to care.

Everyone in this state is facing the new realities of the current economic conditions. Removing health care benefits for 7,400 adults with low-income while keeping tax cuts for 7,650 adults with incomes over \$200,000 is clearly not an equal sharing of the economic burden.

# RITE CARE WORKS *for:*

## BARBARA TORRES Providence, RI

Mother of four children  
Employed at RI Parent Information Network



### *My Rite Care story:*

I have four children who are covered by Rite Care. My son has special health care needs but, because of Rite Care, his asthma is controlled.

If we lose Rite Care, I will lose my primary care doctor for my children. We will be forced to go to the ER and the expense would be unbelievable and we would not be able to pay.

Many, many children will become ill and some may even die because we want to save money, but are we really saving money? As you know children are our future and they deserve to be safe, healthy, and ready to learn to reach their full potential. Many families will be forced to make decisions that we don't want to make. We have to choose between having our lights on, heat, food and much more.

Because of Rite Care, families don't have to worry about these things as much.

So many families have benefited from programs like Rite Care, the family independence program also known as FIP, FIP job Trainings, Childcare. ALL these programs ARE opportunities! If we don't have these opportunities, what would our future look like?

I was able to obtain my GED with the help of the FIP job training. I was able to take this opportunity and make a difference in my life and others because of the help I was given. And I thank you for that!

As a tax payer, a voter, a Rite Care parent and a former FIP recipient I ask you to please don't close these doors for families!

# RITE CARE WORKS *for:*

## NADINE BONANCA Tiverton, RI

**Mother of three boys  
Employed as a Nursing Assistant**

### *My Rite Care story:*

I was diagnosed with Diabetes over ten years ago. I must take care of myself, so that I can care for my children who all have special health care needs. My two younger sons both suffer from ADHD. And, my older son A.J.'s story is nothing short of a miracle.



At two years old, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The tumor was cancerous and it was the size of a grapefruit. When the Doctors operated, my son suffered a stroke which left him unable to move his right side. Over the next two years he underwent chemotherapy, a peripheral stem-cell rescue and six weeks of radiation. We almost lost him.

With help from Rite Care, however, A.J. and our family made it through. Now 16 years old, A.J. has beaten his cancer. He is wheelchair bound, has intractable epilepsy and requires 24 hour supervision, but we are grateful he remains such an important part of our daily lives.

Rite Care has been there all of A.J.'s life from his stem-cell rescue to his medications and all his medical equipment. It has also helped me to maintain my health and adequately provide for my children.

When Rhode Island Legislators decide what to do about our state's difficult budget problems, please remember that people do the best they can and sometimes they need extra help. Rite Care is that extra help and it makes all the difference for me and my children.

Thank You.

# RITE CARE WORKS *for:*

## TONI MARTIN Woonsocket, RI

**Mother of one child  
Employed at Pottery Company**

### *My Rite Care story:*

I am a single mom and I have Rite Care. I pay \$61.00 a month to be on the program. I am scared to lose this coverage with all the cut backs.

I work full time and I do not get any other help. I lost my daycare help last year with the cuts to the child care program. I have a hard time making ends meet.

My daughter needs a lot of medical attention right now for her asthma. We go to the doctor once a week to watch her breathing. There are times when she needs breathing treatments to open up her lungs. We also go to the asthma doctors at Hasbro. They are trying to find the triggers to her attacks so we can get her asthma under control. They have been doing tests to rule out other causes. We just found out my daughter has mild sleep apnea as well as asthma. This is when you stop breathing when you are asleep for a few seconds at a time. She is on six different meds right now just for asthma. We are hoping once we find the triggers we can take her off some of the medications.

This all is not easy for a 9 year old to take in but she stays in good spirits, hoping to get it under control.

If we did not have this coverage I would not be able to treat my daughter's asthma and get her all the testing and medical attention she needs right now to get this condition under control. With the cost of the medical insurance through my job and the co pays and the payments for the medications I would not be able to pay for it all. It is sad but true.

With all the costs of living going up it is hard for a single mom to make it. And now if I have to worry about medical, I don't know where I will be.

# RITE CARE WORKS *for:*

## VILMA GUEVARA Central Falls, RI

**Mother of three children  
Employed as a Registered Nurse**



### *My Rite Care story:*

Rite Care has been a blessing in my life, and in the lives of my husband and my children. When I became pregnant with my first son, I did not have health insurance. My husband was working, but because he was earning minimum wage, we couldn't afford insurance. My doctor told me about Rite Care, and we enrolled. Because of Rite Care, I was able to receive quality pre-natal care.

After my son's birth, I was able to go back to school and pursue my degree in nursing at Rhode Island College. It would have been difficult without Rite Care, because I would have had to have worked full time so that we could pay for insurance for ourselves and our son. My husband and I decided that I would go to school first, and then when I graduated and had a full-time job with benefits, he would go back to school. I now work as an RN at a community mental health center. Although I did not receive Rite care when I started working as a registered nurse, we were able to afford to pay for medical insurance and my husband was also able to return to school to obtain a degree in Computer Engineering.

I know we would have made it, but Rite Care made it easier for us. Rite Care helped us take care of our first two sons, helped me return to college, and let us move our lives forward to economic security and better jobs. My husband and I have made a good life for our family because of our hard work, but Rite Care gave us a push when we needed it, and I feel deeply blessed to have had the help of this program. I hope the state does not cut Rite Care, because all families deserve the chance at success that we have had.