

Moving Forward:

Making Health Reform Work for Tennesseans

**Young. Hard-working. Polite.
Uninsured.**

*All of these words describe Adam Teal.
Only one of them has cost him 3 jobs.*

Senior year at Coffee County Central High School changed Adam Teal's life – and not just because he earned his diploma. When it comes to finding a job, a car crash he suffered that year has affected his opportunities as much as his graduation.



After the car crash Adam began suffering disabling seizures. Not long after that, he was diagnosed with a serious blood-clotting problem, too, but Adam wasn't going to let his conditions slow him down. He continued with his plan to enlist in the U.S. Army. After several weeks of boot camp, he had to admit that the effects of his seizures had taken a great toll on his mental health – severe depression forced him to withdraw before completing training.

When he returned home, Adam was still determined to work hard. He got a cashiering job at Walmart, but complications of his seizure and blood conditions often forced him to call in sick. Eventually his manager asked him to leave. Undaunted, Adam continued his job search. A café hired him to wash dishes, but after just a few months, absenteeism lost him that job, too. Yet again, Adam resumed job-hunting, but this time he noticed that employers hesitated to hire him – they were afraid that his conditions would cause injuries on the job.

Adam finds his situation incredibly frustrating, especially because it doesn't have to be this way. If he could manage his medical conditions with the appropriate medications and monitoring, he would be at work every day. Instead, Adam is unemployable and uninsurable. He can't afford the health care he needs to get back to work, so at age 25 he's already applying for disability.

When important aspects of the new health care law, the Affordable Care Act, take effect in 2014, young men like Adam will have another option. Tennesseans earning under \$1,200 per month – that's 133% of poverty – will be eligible for Medicaid (TennCare) coverage. When that happens, maybe Adam's life will look a lot more like he dreamed it would in high school after all.

Register today for our Annual Conference on June 11, 2011 by clicking:
<http://thcc2.givezooks.com/events/thcc-s-22nd-annual-conference> or by calling 615-227-7500.



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