



Rowena's Story

I had nine children to raise and needed a doctor to see them. It was very difficult for us because no one was willing to see them all at the same time. Then I found NFP and they were great. I was able to get them medical care, close to home, without them missing school days over and over.

My husband was severely injured in 1998. Between taking care of him and his injury, our nine children and the stress of having no money, I found myself overwhelmed and falling into a depression. Sometimes I couldn't sleep for weeks. Finally I couldn't take it anymore. I went to see Dr. Kauffman at NFP and he referred me to Bruce Catalano for counseling. Over time I was able to deal with the pressures of life's demands. Then, I lost my health insurance. I was terrified that my family and I would not be able to get the medical care that we needed. Bruce assured me NFP would never turn me away. Over the years I learned skills I could use to manage stress and anxiety without medication.

When NFP started the "We are the Uninsured" group. I felt that I needed to get involved. I feel that it is important that the uninsured have a voice and are involved in advocacy and policy change to make things better for everyone. I volunteered with the group for six months and then was asked to join the NFP staff part-time to work on the group. This inspired me to get further involved in my community and this year, I began taking classes at Tri-C.

If it was not for the fact that NFP cares more for people than the money they can pay, I would not be at this place in my life. I now serve as the chair of the "We are the Uninsured" group and am incredibly grateful to NFP for everything they have done for my family and I.