

BRIAN'S STORY: "MY DISEASE NO LONGER DEFINES ME"

Brian grew up in Pulaski County, attending PCHS, New River Community College, and Radford University. At 53, he is proud to own a small family business. He took over a used auto parts and salvage yard in Fairlawn when his father fell ill. However, with Internet competition and the complexities of modern vehicles, his industry struggled, and company-paid health insurance for himself and his employees became cost-prohibitive. He found being uninsured was uncomfortable and worrisome.

When Brian sensed that his diabetes was worsening, his wife recommended he try the Community Health Center of the New River Valley. He was initially reluctant, thinking it was only for the down-and-out and would only provide basic services.

"I was blown away!" exclaimed Brian. "The care I received at the Community Health Center was more thorough, and the staff more engaged than I had experienced at my former doctor's office. I paid on a sliding scale, which really made a difference in our household finances."

Brian says that he has learned to advocate for his health and to take care of himself in partnership with the practitioners at the Community Health Center. He no longer dreads going to appointments and instead looks forward to seeing professionals who know him by name and clearly care for his well-being.

Brian is grateful to be a healthy, productive businessman, husband, and stepfather. He now cheerfully recommends the Community Health Center to all of his friends, employees, and customers. "These folks need what I have found. I tell everyone I can. My disease no longer defines who I am or limits my happiness. I have the Community Health Center to thank for that."



"The Health Center doctors asked me about my life stresses, about my eyes, and about my teeth. They wanted to take care of me as a whole person."

