



## Children's Health Initiative Success Story



### The Bradley Family Mendocino County

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Every mother wants to see her children healthy, happy and pursuing their dreams. For a time, though, Melissa Bradley faced the prospect of having her two boys miss opportunities in life due to chronic health problems and lack of health insurance.

Melissa's oldest son, Ryan, 18, had always dreamed of joining the United States Coast Guard and serving his country. When he arrived for training, however, a physical revealed that he had a serious knee injury. Coast Guard rules prevented him from enlisting with the injury, but they assured him that if he could get the knee fixed within a year, he could re-enlist. The goal seemed out of reach, given that the family lacked health insurance.

Additionally, Melissa's youngest son, Kenneth, 6, had been experiencing chronic ear infections. Melissa thought the infections were manageable, but soon learned that Kenneth was at risk for permanent hearing damage if he did not undergo extensive treatment.

Melissa needed to act quickly to secure health coverage to help her boys. She thought her family might qualify for Medi-Cal, so she visited the nearest clinic to meet with a Certified Application Assistor (CAA). The CAA helped Melissa complete applications for Ryan and Kenneth, and soon both boys were successfully enrolled into Medi-Cal.

As a result of his Medi-Cal coverage, Kenneth now receives regular treatment for his ear infections as well as much-needed dental care. Having health insurance also made it possible for Ryan to fulfill the Coast Guard's requirement of having his knee fixed within a year. He recently underwent surgery and a physical therapy regimen, and will soon re-enlist and renew his quest of joining the Coast Guard.

Thanks to the help of the Mendocino County Children's Health Initiative, Ryan and Kenneth Bradley were able to get the care needed to put them on a healthier track. Both Ryan's and Kenneth's futures have become significantly brighter since receiving health insurance, and nothing makes their mom happier.