



Children's Health Initiative Success Story



The Palomera Twins Orange County

Last November, eight-year old Syssi Palomera became ill with a high fever and was hospitalized with a urinary tract infection. Neither Syssi nor her twin sister, Mitzi, had health insurance so their mother, Maria, was forced to pay out of pocket for her daughter's treatment. As a single mom on temporary disability, paying for the treatments proved difficult, but Maria would endure whatever financial burden it took to improve her daughter's health. She lived in fear, however, that another medical crisis would happen.

Thankfully, Maria was introduced to Children's Health Initiative (CHI) of Orange County through her daughters' school. She learned of the organization's efforts to insure all children in Orange County by exploring their eligibility for the Healthy Families, Healthy Kids or Medi-Cal programs. She completed applications for both daughters and soon thereafter they were enrolled in Medi-Cal.



As a result of her daughters' Medi-Cal benefits, Maria is now able to take Syssi and Mitzi for routine check-ups with their doctor and dentist. In addition, Maria takes great comfort in knowing that, should another emergency occur, her children will receive prompt medical treatment without financially overwhelming Maria.

Maria is grateful that the CHI of Orange County exists to help parents like her enroll their children in health coverage programs for which they are eligible. To Maria, having her twin daughters on Medi-Cal means the difference between keeping them healthy and not.