

The Pengilly Story

My granddaughter became the primary provider for her four children after her husband realized he was gay and left the family to pursue a gay lifestyle. Eventually she met a man who appeared to love her and her children. They married and bought a home together. We believed things had worked out for her. The bottom fell out when it became clear that her second husband was an abuser. She sought counsel and support from Prevail, a Hamilton County support organization for those in abusive situations. She took Prevail's advice and a leap of faith and walked away from her husband, home, and possessions to keep herself and her children safe.

The children are now covered by Medicaid and the family lives in subsidized housing. My granddaughter works part-time as a substitute teacher in a nursery school. She would like to work fulltime but the children will lose Medicaid and she won't earn enough to both support them and pay for health insurance. The children's father lost his job so they are not covered by his employer's policy.

My granddaughter has no health coverage. She recently developed a condition for which she did not see a doctor because she had no insurance. It finally became necessary for her to go to the emergency room and her doctor had to perform surgery. She will need follow-up surgery, but she is worried sick about how she will pay for all her medical care.

Margaret Pengilly