



Health Services  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



**Carolyn Bell**

65 years old

Santa Fe Springs, CA

## **A LIFE OF SERVICE, STRENGTH, AND SURVIVAL — MADE POSSIBLE BY MEDICAID**

Carolyn Bell is the heart of her family and a pillar of her community. At 65, she's a wife, mother of five, grandmother to 11, and lifelong Angeleno who has spent her life giving back as a medical biller at Watts Healthcare Foundation, a payroll specialist for Los Angeles Unified School District, and a clerk at the U.S. Postal Service. Her life has been defined by faith, family, and service.

### **But Carolyn is also a survivor.**

Thanks to a high school lesson on breast self-exams, she found a lump early. At 54 years old, it changed her

life. She was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer, one of the most aggressive forms. Through chemotherapy, a double mastectomy, and reconstruction, Medicaid was there every step of the way. Without it, she says, ***"I don't even want to think about what I would've done."***

Medicaid gave her the chance to keep watching her grandkids grow up, follow her daughter's journey becoming a police officer, celebrate birthdays with her sisters, and to commemorate nearly 45 years of marriage with her husband, whose care she's provided since his tragic car accident in 2003.

Today, Carolyn manages several chronic conditions: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and recurring leg cysts. She's had two surgeries and physical therapy to relearn how to walk. ***Medicaid has helped cover every surgery, every hospital stay, every medication —*** care she couldn't afford on her fixed income alone.

Her journey has inspired her sisters, daughters, and granddaughters to begin self-exams and annual mammograms. She's not just a survivor; she's a protector of future generations.

***Medicaid is the lifeline that allows people like Carolyn to stay healthy, independent, and connected to the people they love.*** Without Medicaid, Carolyn's story, and countless others, could have ended very differently.

## **ABOUT LA HEALTH SERVICES**

LA Health Services is the second largest public health system in the U.S., providing care to over 600,000 people every year. We operate four hospitals, including two Level 1 trauma centers that serve as the first stop for major emergencies and disasters like car crashes, fires, and earthquakes. We also run 27 health centers across LA County, that provide preventative care to help people stay healthy and out of the ER. About 80% of our funding comes from Medicaid, making it essential to keeping our doors open and our communities healthy.



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