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Local nonprofit collects consumer health stories to use in last 5 days of open enrollment

<u>BERNALILLO, NM</u> – With 5 days left until open enrollment for the health insurance Marketplace closes, the race is on to get as many New Mexicans enrolled in health coverage as possible. Many New Mexicans have shared their health care and enrollment stories with us at Health Action New Mexico (HANM), and we'd like to share these stories with you.



The Montoya Family in Anthony, NM still doesn't have coverage. See the video interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ntCeHwYGbYM

Meet the Montoya Family. Their twelve-year-old son, Colton, was diagnosed with cancer in 2010. At the time, Colton was receiving CHIP benefits that got him through his four-year battle with cancer. Since then, the Montoya family has lost health coverage. They are in desperate need

of health insurance today, and are currently waiting to hear back on the Medicaid application they submitted.

With only 5 days left of open enrollment, we need to get the word out. Stories like these help consumers connect. Please help us to share these stories throughout the state by including them in your coverage.

At HANM we have created a digital map of all the stories we have collected. Each red marker on the map below is a different consumer story. You can explore the map on our website: http://healthactionnm.org/voices-map.

The Consumer Voices Map on HANM's website has stories from people all across New Mexico.

More videos of stories like the Montoyas' are on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/HealthActionNM/feed.

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Health Action New Mexico (HANM) is a Bernalillo-based non-profit organization with outreach staff located in Northern and Southern parts of the state. Our mission is to achieve affordable, accessible & accountable health care for all people living in the state of New Mexico. Contact HANM: (505) 867-1095, info@healthactionnm.org or www.HealthActionNM.org.

Sample Photos and Stories collected by HANM:



Mark Horst. Albuquerque, NM.

Mark is an artist, and was one of the first in New Mexico to purchase insurance on the Exchange last fall. "This seems like a really great thing to me!" For an HANM exclusive video interview of Mark, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MukhQ76IGrs



Monique Fernandez. Mora, NM.

"The thing I love most about my job is the outreach—Constantly going out in the community."



Francesca Tharpe. Albuquerque, NM.

"I didn't have any insurance before applying. This was pretty monumental for me."



Esperanza Dodge. Albuquerque, NM.

Ezperanza is a working mother whose son has chronic asthma. She and her son were on Medicaid, but had to transition at the end of 2013. "As a mother and as a woman, I'm able to provide for myself and get myself checked up... anything that is healthcare related, I know that I can cover it." HANM video interview to be posted soon – see our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/HealthActionNM/feed