

## **PARTICIPANT BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Mindy and Eric Spencer of Lehi, Utah**

The Spencers have been forced to make career and financial decisions based on their access to health care. Eric has always been interested in starting his own business as a general contractor. With a degree in business management and with his extensive background in contracting; he has the perfect skill set. He has looked into starting his own business but ended up dismissing the idea only because his family would have lost their health insurance. His wife, Mindy, has Type 1 diabetes. The Spencers would have to buy insurance on the individual market—a market in which Mindy finds herself uninsurable. Each time Eric changes jobs, they worry about where they will get their health insurance. They have to consider if the new job is worth the high COBRA prices they pay in the transition and how the new benefits package measures against their current one.

For a brief video of Eric and Mindy, go to:

<http://www.prescriptionforchange.org/video.html>. (5th story down)

### **Dave Penkava of Ashboro, NC**

At the age of 62, Dave was laid off from his job after working the same company for 42 years. He tried to pay for health insurance for himself and his wife but the policies excluded their pre-existing conditions. Dave is now eligible for Medicare but he has had to find a job that offers health benefits in order to provide health coverage for his wife until she qualifies for Medicare. By then he'll be 69. Health insurance is the only reason he is working. "Health insurance is controlling our lives," Dave says.

For a brief video of Dave, go to:

<http://www.prescriptionforchange.org/video.html>. (6th story down)