



## WHEN THERE WAS NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN

In July 2017, Dr. Elisa Castillo met with an 18-year-old girl who previously received primary care at Texas Children's but then left the country. She returned after having been involved in a violent relationship. She was uninsured and had been diagnosed with cancer.

Social worker Ana Thornton arranged a referral to a benefits advocate through Texas Children's Health Plan. The patient was eligible for Medicaid as well as Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a program that pays benefits to disabled adults and children with limited incomes and resources. Today, the young woman is receiving both cancer and psychosocial treatment and is looking forward to finishing high school.