

# ONE PERSON TOO MANY™

Because being truthful comes at a cost

## He Worked Until He Couldn't

*"I can't go on disability. I am the only one working. I have seven children to feed."*

Mr. Anonymous A was a middle-aged Hispanic man, a small business owner who worked long days in his landscaping boots to provide for his family. He came into the clinic one afternoon, boots still on, complaining of soreness in the bottom of his right foot.

When I examined him, I checked his shoes—and there it was: a nail embedded in the sole of his boot. When we lined up his shoe with his foot, the puncture mark matched perfectly. Neuropathy had masked his protective sensation, and by the time we caught it, the wound was infected, with possible bone involvement and osteomyelitis.

The vascular surgeon admitted him for debridement and imaging, and the plan was clear: offload the foot and begin HBO therapy, with disability paperwork to help him through recovery. On paper, it looked like the right plan.

But for Mr. Anonymous A, it was impossible. After the surgeon left, he told me what no one else had asked: he couldn't stop working. He was the sole provider for his seven children.

He went back to work. He lost his foot. And our system failed him.

Because telling someone what they *should* do doesn't matter if no one makes it *possible* for them to do it.

With **The PURITY Model**, this would have been different. From the start, an in-home evaluation would have uncovered his role as the sole provider, his seven children, his inability to stop working, and his language barriers. We could have built a plan that acknowledged his reality—transportation support, work modifications, social service integration, and resource navigation. Maybe, just maybe, he could have kept his foot.

His story can't be undone. But it can be heard. Because one man losing his limb in silence is one person too many.

If you have a story like his, your voice matters. Share it, so it is not forgotten. So no one else becomes one person too many.