Angie Propst could have spent her entire career working in a hosiery mill, but during a time when manufacturing jobs were on the decline and her factory shut down, she took a chance and seized the opportunity to go back to school. That opportunity and her persistence eventually landed Propst a full-time job in medical records at Catawba County Public Health.

"It was the chance to go back to school that got me here. If my hosiery mill would not have closed down, I might not have ever gone back to school, gotten my degree or ended up here," she said. "It's the best thing that ever happened, and it was the

scariest decision to go back to school at almost 30 years old, with two kids, and a full-time job at the same time."

Propst chose Catawba County Public Health for her internship because of her previous experience as a client.

"I wanted to go somewhere I had been before so I would see some familiar faces and be in familiar surroundings," she said. "And I wanted to pay it forward, because I received services here."

Propst spent her internship time in medical records, immunizations and at the front desk. "I enjoyed how they were teaching me, what they were teaching me, and learned more than I ever anticipated," said Propst. "I liked what we did for the community and I liked the people I worked with. I told them I was not leaving until they hired me. I started working part time, then full time and have been here almost 9 years."

Propst said had always been interested in the clerical side of healthcare, including medical records.

"Medical records provide an unseen value to the community. Complete, thorough, accessible records give patients the opportunity to continue their care anywhere, and gives them the flexibility to get records quickly without having to jump through hoops. It's what you need, when you need it."

"We offer the assurance to our patients that their information is going to be protected and not released without their permission."

That peace of mind is something Propst offers the community through her role at Catawba County Public Health.

"I do it because I care about people being able to get the care they need, and medical records help make that possible," she said.



