

Rough Edited Copy

Cochlear Americas
CA-CAN Chapter Meeting
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SPEAKER: GOOD MORNING. CAN EVERYONE TAKE A SEAT PLEASE?
I HOPE WE HAVE ENOUGH CHAIRS.

WELCOME TO OUR MEETING. WONDERFUL CROWD ON A BEAUTIFUL
SATURDAY MORNING.

MY NAME IS SISTER JUNE AND I AM ONE OF THE LEADERS AND FOUNDERS OF
THIS GROUP.

WE HAVE SEVERAL VOLUNTEERS HERE. SOME ARE WEARING ORANGE
SHIRTS: LOU ANN AND MARY JO AND WE HAVE JANICE IN THE BACK NOW.
WE HAVE JANE WHO HELPS OUT.

WE HAVE A VARIETY OF PEOPLE HERE TO HELP YOU ANSWER QUESTIONS.
FIRST OF ALL HOW MANY OF YOU ARE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME? RAISE
YOUR HAND.

HOW MANY OF YOU ARE WAITING FOR SURGERY? ?

WONDERFUL.

HOW MANY OF YOU HAVE JUST BEEN ACTIVATED?

HOW MANY OF YOU ARE FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS?

THAT IS WONDERFUL. PEOPLE NEED SUPPORT ON THE JOURNEY.

DETAILS FOR THOSE NOT BEEN HERE BEFORE. WHEN YOU GO OUT THE
DOOR TO THE LEFT ARE THE RESTROOMS.

ALSO IN AUGUST THE MEETING WILL NOT BE HERE. THERE IS NO MEETING IN
AUGUST. THERE IS A PICNIC AND THERE ARE FLIERS. THE PICNIC IS GOING
TO BE AT BRIAN'S HOUSE. HE HAS BEEN OFF FISHING AND VACATIONING.

WE HAD THE PICNIC THERE LAST YEAR AND HE HAS A LOT OF SPACE AND IT
WAS A WONDERFUL TIME. PICKUP A FLYER ON YOUR WAY OUT.

IF YOU ARE A GOLFER, THERE IS INFORMATION ABOUT A GOLF OUTING ON
THE TABLE. THE GOLF OUTING SUPPORTS PEOPLE WHO CAN'T AFFORD AN
IMPLANT.

OUR SPEAKER TODAY IS BECKY. SHE WILL SHARE WITH YOU HER STORY.
THE WAY WE LIKE TO DO THIS IS ALLOW HER TO TELL THE STORY AND THEN
WE WILL ASK QUESTIONS AT THE END. THEN WE WILL BREAK INTO GROUPS.
WE HAVE DIFFERENT SIGNS HERE, IF YOU ARE NEWLY IMPLANTED AND WANT
TO TALK TO HER PEOPLE NEWLY IMPLANTED. ONE OF THE VOLUNTEERS
WILL BE WITH YOU. WE HAVE DIFFERENT GROUPS. WHEN WE GET TO THAT
POINT WE WILL GET YOU INTO YOUR GROUP.

WITHOUT FURTHER ADO I GIVE YOU BECKY.

BECKY: GOOD MORNING EVERYONE. I NEVER THOUGHT I WOULD BE UP
HERE TELLING THIS STORY.

I HAVE BEEN COMING ABOUT 18 MONTHS TO THIS SUPPORT GROUP AND IT IS
ABOVE AND BEYOND THE MOST WONDERFUL THING I HAVE DONE TO HELP IN
MY JOURNEY.

MY HEARING LOSS IS VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT WE HEARD ABOUT LAST
WEEK -- LAST MONTH FROM ROXANNE. I HAD SPINAL MENINGITIS WHEN I
WAS A BABY ABOUT 18 MONTHS OLD. THAT WAS IN JANUARY OF 1961. THAT
IS PRACTICALLY BEFORE ELECTRICITY.

I ENDED UPCOMING OUT OF THAT MENINGITIS WITH PROFOUND
SENSORINEURAL HEARING LOSS.

WHEN I TURNED 30 I EXPERIENCED WHAT YOU HEARD TALKED ABOUT LAST MONTH HAND THAT WAS SUDDEN SENSORY NEURO HEARING LOSS. OVERNIGHT A LOST A CHUNK OF HEARING AND THAT CHUNK IS HOW I LISTEN TO CONVERSATION.

ONCE I LOST THAT BIG CHUNK IT WAS VERY VERY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND ANY CONVERSATION UNLESS I WAS LOOKING SOMEONE RIGHT IN THE FACE.

I GREW UP IN A HEARING WORLD. MY PARENTS, I DON'T THINK EVER CONSIDERED SENDING ME TO A SPECIAL SCHOOL. I WENT TO A PRIVATE SCHOOL IN OXFORD, OHIO WHERE THE CLASS SIZE WAS SMALL. ABOUT 30 CHILDREN. I WAS ABLE TO RECEIVE VERY GOOD PERSONALIZED EDUCATIONAL SERVICES. BUT, OTHER THAN THAT THERE WAS NOTHING REALLY SPECIAL ABOUT MY UP BRINGING. NO SPECIAL DEVICES OTHER THAN HEARING AIDS.

I DID GET A HEARING AID AT AGE NINE.

MY HUSBAND IS HERE TODAY AND MY DAUGHTERS ARE NOT HERE TODAY BUT THEY KNEW NOTHING DIFFERENT ABOUT ME. THEY MET ME AFTER MY HEARING LOSS OCCURRED SO THEY WERE SO WONDERFUL IN WORKING WITH ME AND ACCOMMODATING MY HEARING LOSS.

HERE THEY ARE. HERE HAD HE IS. WOULD YOU STAND UP PLEASE.

(APPLAUSE).

>>: I LOOK BETTER THERE.

BECKY: THAT IS OLD. OUR DAUGHTERS ARE 19 AND 21 AND OFF AT COLLEGE.

I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME OF THE TRICKS I HAVE USED OVER THE YEARS UNTIL THIS TIME WHEN I RECEIVED THE COCHLEAR IMPLANT.

FIRST ONE WAS A HEARING AID WHEN I MENTIONED BEFORE. I RECEIVED WHEN I WAS AGE NINE.

THAT WAS A WONDERFUL WINDOW INTO MORE SOUND. I LOVED THAT SOUND. UNFORTUNATELY, BACK THEN THERE WAS NOT THE TECHNOLOGY THAT KEPT DOWN THE SOUND. I GOT TOO MUCH SOUND AND DAMAGED THE LITTLE BIT OF HEARING I HAD.

EVER SINCE THEN I HAD TINNITUS. OTHER TINNITUS SUFFERERS IN HERE? I SEE A LOT OF YOU.

WHEN I WAS 8, 9, 10, I WAS SO LUCKY IN A LIVED IN A COLLEGE TOWN, OXFORD OHIO, MIAMI UNIVERSITY. I WAS ABLE TO WALK ONE BLOCK FROM MY SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL, TWICE A WEEK AND WALK UP TO MIAMI SPEECH AND HEARING CENTER. THERE THEY TAUGHT ME HOW TO SAY MY S'S AND WORKED TO GET ME TO SAY STRAWBERRY ICE CREAM. SOMETIMES WE WOULD GO GET IT AND THEY WOULD MAKE ME DO THE ORDERING SO I WOULD PRACTICE THOSE S'S.

THEY ALSO TAUGHT ME LIP READING.

ALL OF YOU KNOW THAT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO COMMUNICATE WITH PEOPLE.

I FEEL LIKE THESE THREE YEARS OF THERAPY THAT I GOT FROM THEM WERE EXTREMELY INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING ME FUNCTION AS A SUCCESSFUL

CHILD AND ADULT IN THE WORLD.

WHEN I WAS 26 I DISCOVERED CAPTION BOXED FOR THE TELEVISION. I GOT ONE AND IT WAS WONDERFUL. I TURNED ON MY FAVORITE SHOW RIGHT AWAY. BUGS BUNNY. YOU KNOW, YOU CANNOT LIP READ BUGS BUNNY, DAFFY DUCK, ANY OF THOSE CHARACTERS. I WAS NEVER SURE WHAT THEY WERE SAYING.

FINALLY WITH MY CAPTION BOX I WAS ABLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ALL THE CARTOON CHARACTERS WERE SAYING.

STILL TO THIS DAY I USE THE CAPTIONING ON MY TELEVISION.

MY CHILDREN ALSO GREW UP USING CAPTIONING ON THE TV. RESEARCH HAS PROVEN THAT CHILDREN THAT READ WHILE WATCHING TV AND HEARING THE SOUNDS BECAUSE FASTER READERS. THAT HAS BEEN A BIG BENEFIT IN MY FAMILY.

THEN I RECEIVED AN FM SYSTEM. I WORKED AT GENERAL ELECTRIC WHERE I MET MY TRUE LOVE HERE.

THEY WERE SO WONDERFUL IN TRYING TO HELP ME HEAR BETTER IN MEETINGS AND ON THE PHONE AND WHAT NOT.

ONE OF THE THINGS THEY DID WAS BOUGHT AN FM SYSTEM TO USE IN MEETINGS AND I WOULD USE IT AT HOME AND TAKE IT HOME AND USE AT HOLIDAY GATHERINGS AND OTHER EVENTS.

WHEN MY DAUGHTERS WERE BORN I WAS HOOKED UP TO MY FM SYSTEM AND THAT WAS THE ONLY WAY I COULD LAY THERE WITH MY EYES CLOSED DURING THE PAIN AND BE ABLE TO HEAR THE NURSES AND DOCTORS GIVING ME INSTRUCTION.

IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THING FOR ME TO HAVE.

THEN WHEN I WAS ABOUT 35 I BROKE DOWN AND GOT A TTY OR TDD. IT WAS CUMBERSOME BUT IT WAS WONDERFUL TO CATCH EVERY WORD SAID ON A TELEPHONE. I DIDN'T USE IT ALL THE TIME BUT WHEN I HAD IMPORTANT PHONE CALLS TO MAKE.

FINALLY JUST LAST YEAR I RECEIVED MY COCHLEAR IMPLANT. IT IS A MIRACLE.

I SEE ALL THE OTHER LITTLE TRICKS I USED OVER THE YEARS WERE GOOD BUT THE COCHLEAR IMPLANT IS PHENOMENAL. I KNOW MANY OF YOU WOULD AGREE WITH THIS.

I RESISTED THE IMPLANT. IT SEEMED LIKE SUCH A BIG DEAL. MY HUSBAND WORRIED, THEY WERE CUTTING INTO MY HEAD. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

I ALSO HEARD VOICES SOUNDED LIKE ANIMALS.

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS FOR A LITTLE WHILE.

MY AHA MOMENT OCCURRED WHEN THE AUDIOLOGIST SAID THERE IS NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO FOR YOU. CALLED THIS NUMBER YOU WILL LOVE DR. SAMY. HE WAS WONDERFUL.

BUT IT PROBABLY TOOK FIVE YEARS TO ACTUALLY GET THE SURGERY.

MY SURGERY WAS A YEAR AGO JULY 23RD IN WEST CHESTER PERFORMED BY DR. SAMY.

I HAD NO PROBLEMS OR COMPLICATIONS OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT RIGHT BEFORE SURGERY STARTED THEY WALKED INTO THE ROOM AND SAID BY THE

WAY, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW DR. SAMY SEES WHAT MIGHT BE FLUID INSIDE YOUR EAR. IF HE GETS IN AND FINDS THERE IS FLUID HE WILL CLOSE YOU UP AND WE WON'T DO THE SURGERY.

I WAS CRUSHED.

WHEN I WOKE UP THE FIRST QUESTION WAS DID THEY DO IT AND THE NURSE SAID YES. THEY DID. I WAS SO TICKLED.

THERE WAS A LITTLE BIT OF PAIN. NOT AS MUCH AS I EXPECTED. IT WAS REALLY BECAUSE THEY WRAP YOUR HEAD SO TIGHTLY FOR THE INCISION, THAT IS WHAT HURT NOT THE INCISION.

THE NEXT MORNING THEY TOOK THAT GAUZE OFF MY HEAD I FELT SO GOOD. I ORDERED EVERYTHING ON THE BREAKFAST MENU. I HAD NO PAIN AND FABULOUS BREAKFAST. DON'T DO THAT UNLESS YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR BREAKFAST AGAIN.

WHAT I RECEIVED IS THE NUCLEUS SIX. THE COCHLEAR AMERICA'S PRODUCT. SOME MAY HAVE BAHA OR OTHER MANUFACTURERS BUT THIS IS THE ONE I HAVE.

I WANT TO GET TECHNICAL WITH YOU FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT.

MY ACCESSORIES HAVE BEEN PHENOMENAL AND I WANT TO WALK YOU THROUGH THAT AND MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THERE ARE SO MANY BENEFITS TO LEARNING HOW TO USE THESE ACCESSORIES.

I PICKED FOUR.

I REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHICH ONES TO PICK.

THAT IS KIND OF SCARY. I ENCOURAGE THOSE AT THAT PROCESS OR TIME TO PICK ACCESSORIES, TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE WHO HAVE GONE THROUGH THIS. FIND OUT WHAT ACCESSORIES WORK FOR YOU.

YOU HEARD SISTER JUNE TALK ABOUT THE PICNIC AT BRIANS. LAST YEAR THAT WAS RIGHT BEFORE MY ACTIVATIONS.

I LEARNED AT THAT PICNIC, DEB IN PARTICULAR THAT ISN'T HERE. SHE LOVED HER PHONE CLIP AND SAID THAT WAS HER FAVORITE ACCESSORY. I HAVE IT HERE AND SHOW YOU IN A MINUTE.

I DIDN'T ORDER A PHONE CLIP I DIDN'T REALIZE I NEEDED ONE.

THANK GOODNESS THE AUDIOLOGY TEAM IS SO RESPONSIVE, I WAS ABLE TO SHOOT THEM AN E-MAIL THE NEXT DAY AND SAY CAN I CHANGE MY ORDER I WANT A PHONE CLIP.

THEY TOOK CARE OF THAT THE VERY LAST MINUTE.

DON'T HESITATE TO WORK WITH THE AUDIOLOGIST ON SWITCHING OUT THESE THINGS, ACCESSORIES OR IF DOWN THE ROAD SOMETHING IS NOT WORKING OR GETS BROKEN. CALL YOUR AUDIOLOGIST OR SEND HER AN E-MAIL AND THEY WILL FIX YOUR PROBLEM.

I GOT THE MINI MIC AND REMOTE ASSISTANT AND ALSO GOT AN EXTRA RECHARGEABLE BATTERY.

I WILL TALK ABOUT EACH OF THESE BRIEFLY.

ALL OF YOUR ACCESSORIES COME IN THIS BIG SECRET SERVICE BRIEFCASE THING.

YOU WAKE UP FROM SURGERY AND THEY ARE LIKE, HERE IT IS.

IT IS IMPORTANT YOU HAVE SOMEONE THERE WHEN YOU COME OUT OF

SURGERY THAT WILL KEEP AN EYE ON THAT BLACK BAG. IT HAS A LOT OF INFORMATION.

IT HAS ACCESSORIES AND INSTRUCTION MANUAL AND RECHARGEABLE CABLES... EVERYTHING IS IN THAT BAG AND IT IS OVERWHELMING.

PERSONALLY I DIDN'T LOOK IN THE BAG UNTIL ABOUT A WEEK LATER. I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO TAKE ON ALL OF THIS EXTRA INFORMATION. THAT IS FINE.

YOU CAN LET IT SIT THERE UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO OPEN IT. WHEN YOU DO, IT HAS WONDERFUL THINGS INSIDE.

BRIEFLY WANT TO GO THROUGH:

HERE IS THE PHONE CLIP. I LOVE IT.

DEB WEARS IT ON A LANYARD. MINE HAD A CLIP BUT I DROPPED IT AND THE CLIP BROKE.

I CALL MY AUDIOLOGIST AND TOLD HER AND SHE REPLACED IT AND HAD A NEW ONE SENT TO ME. THAT IS HOW GREAT THEY ARE TO WORK WITH. THEY WANT EVERYTHING TO WORK FOR YOU. DON'T HESITATE TO REACH OUT TO THEM IF YOU BREAK SOMETHING.

I LOVE BEING ABLE TO TALK ON THE PHONE WITHOUT HAVING TO HOLD THE PHONE. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW THERE IS A SWEET SPOT ON THE PHONE THAT WORKS REALLY WELL WITH YOUR HEARING AID OR COCHLEAR IMPLANT.

SOMETIMES YOUR HAND MOVES AND YOU LOSE THAT SWEET SPOT AND CAN BE AWKWARD.

WITH THE PHONE CLIP YOU DON'T HAVE THAT PROBLEM. THE SOUND IS RIGHT INTO YOUR HEAD. THAT IS A GREAT BENEFIT.

>>: SMART PHONE -- BLUE TOOTH.

BECKY: IF YOU DON'T HAVE A SMART PHONE BLUE TOOTH WON'T WORK. GOOD POINT.

>>: WHERE THE MIC ON YOU?

BECKY, YOU CAN CLIP IT TO YOU OR WEAR ON A LANYARD. WHEN MY CLIP WAS BROKEN I HAD TO HOLD IT. IT IS RIGHT THERE CONVENIENTLY ATTACHED TO YOU SOMEHOW.

I HAD A BONUS, I FOUND A BONUS WITH THIS. IT BEEPS WHEN A TEXT COMES TO MY PHONE.

I LOVE THAT. I WAS MISSING MY PHONE RINGING AND TEXTS.

WHEN I TURNED IT ON THE PHONE WOULD RING IN MY HEAD AND NO WAY I COULD MISS THE PHONE CALL OR TEXT. IT WOULD BEEP ALERTING ME THAT THE TEXT CAME THROUGH.

I JUST FELT LIKE THAT WAS A WONDERFUL ADDITIONAL BONUS TO THE PHONE FLIP.

THE MINI MIC, I DON'T USE IT A LOT BUT I REALLY DEPEND ON IT WHEN I DO USE IT.

THAT IS TYPICALLY IN A RESTAURANT WHEN IT IS NOISY AND YOU PICKUP THE MUSIC AND ALL THE PATRONS AROUND YOU.

ANOTHER ONE OF MY AUDIOLOGIST, I DISCOVERED YESTERDAY, IF YOU SIT THE MINI MIC ON WHERE THE SUGAR IS, IT DOESN'T PICKUP THE

REVERBERATION.

I THOUGHT I LOST IT. I PUT AN ADDRESS LABEL ON THIS AND SOMEONE FOUND IT AND I TURNED IT IN AND I WAS CALLED. THAT WAS A HAPPY DAY. THE REMOTE ASSISTANT IS THIS LITTLE THING HERE.

YOU GET THIS LITTLE REMOTE AUTOMATICALLY WHEN YOU GET THE PROCESSOR. IT IS VERY SMALL AND IT IS NOT AS EASY TO PROGRAM AS WHEN YOU HAVE THIS UNIT HERE

(INDICATING)

YOU CAN PROGRAM WITH SETTING. YOU CAN PROGRAM VOLUME AND SENSITIVITY AND YOU CAN TURN YOUR MINI MIC ON AND OFF USING THIS REMOTE.

ONE I LEARNED HERE FROM JOANNE. WHEN YOU ARE IN A NOISY ENVIRONMENT, MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE A MINI MIC OR HAVE A CONVENIENT. YOU CAN SET YOUR SENSITIVITY AT A LOW NUMBER AND YOU CAN BOOST THE VOLUME SO THAT ANYONE WITHIN THAT SMALL SENSITIVITY CIRCLE THAT YOU SET IS BOOSTED MUCH HIGHER.

FOR INSTANCE, I WAS ACTIVATED A YEAR AGO IN THE SUMMER.

WE HAVE A SCREENED IN PORCH AND I WOULD SIT OUT THERE.

BUT THE CRICKETS AND CICADAS I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW LOUD THEY WERE.

AFTER I GOT MY ASSISTANT I USED IT TOO BOOST THE NOISE AND VOLUME OF THE -- WHAT WAS WITH ME.

>>: YOU HAVE A SCAN OPTION, WHEN YOU TRY TO LOWER THE SENSITIVITY AND INCREASE THE VOLUME ON SCAN, DOES THAT STILL WORK? SCAN IS SCANNING THE ENVIRONMENT AND SETS THE SETTING. DOES IT OVERRIDE THE SCAN?

BECKY: THAT IS A TECHNICAL QUESTION, KIM CAN YOU SPEAK TO THAT?

>>: PROBABLY NOT.

BECKY: I JUST PLAYED WITH IT.

>>: WHEN YOU BRING DOWN THE SENSITIVITY YOU ARE ON SCAN AND IT WORKS?

BECKY: IT SEEMS TO. IF IT DOESN'T I CYCLE THROUGH.

>>: IF YOU HAVE SCAN IT WILL ALWAYS WORK. SOME PEOPLE DON'T HAVE SCAN ON EVERY PROGRAM. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOUR AUDIOLOGIST AND WHAT YOU LIKE.

>>: WHAT IS SCAN?

BECKY: SCAN IS A PROGRAM THAT PICKS UP EVERYTHING ALL AROUND YOU. IT IS NOT A DIRECTIONAL MIC. IT SENSES WHERE THE SOUND IS COMING FROM. BEHIND YOU, FRONT OF YOU, SIDE... IT FOCUSES ON THAT SOUND.

>>: THAT COMES WITH UPGRADE.

BECKY: YOU HAVE A FIVE?

CAN YOU RAISE YOUR HAND WHEN YOU SPEAK. I AM SORRY THAT I CAN'T ANSWER THAT.

>>: ANYONE HERE THAT HAS NECLEUS FIVE.

>>: I HAD ONE.

BECKY: THAT IS THE BEAUTY OF THIS GROUP, YOU MIGHT WANT TO SPEAK WITH THEM.

HELPFUL HINTS. PUT THE LABELS, NOT ONLY ON ACCESSORIES BUT ON CHARGING CABLES. YOU HAVE SO MANY OF THEM. ONE FOR EACH DIFFERENT ACCESSORY.

IF YOU JUST ATTACH A LITTLE LABEL THEN IT IS REAL EASY TO PICK UP THE RIGHT CABLE OR THE PROPER ACCESSORY.

>>: I AM HERE WITH MY HUSBAND. I AM NOT SURE THAT HE IS SINKING IN AWFUL THIS BUT I AM THINKING IN MY HEAD, THAT I HAVE TO CARRY ALL OF THESE ACCESSORIES EVERYWHERE I GO. CAN YOU ADDRESS THAT, DO YOU CARRY ALL OF THIS EVERYWHERE YOU GO?

BECKY: I KIND OF DO. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CARRY A PURSE THAT WOULD MAKE IT EASIER.

BUT HERE IS WHAT I DO.

I KEEP THE TWO OF THESE IN A LITTLE POUCH. SMALLER THAN THIS. I HAVE A PURSE THAT HAS POCKETS ON THE SIDE AND I KEEP THIS IN THERE TOO. ALL OF THAT STUFF IS RIGHT HERE.

I DON'T CARRY ELECTRONICS -- I DON'T CARRY THESE AROUND AT HOME. THEY ARE AT HOME AT NIGHT, I WILL COME HOME AND CHARGE THEM EVERY COUPLE DAYS.

>>: SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE THE ACCESSORIES WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES?

BECKY: I FEEL THAT WAY. IF YOU ARE IN A RESTAURANT. DRIVING IN THE CAR. IF YOU HAVE BLUE TOOTH IT CAN COME THROUGH THE CAR.

IF YOU HAVE THE TELEPHONE FLIP ON IT GOES STRAIGHT TO YOUR HEAD, YEAH. I DO FEEL.

>>: I THINK IT DEPENDS ON YOUR LIFESTYLE. I DON'T CARRY ALL OF THAT WITH ME. I DON'T HAVE MY REMOTE EVEN WITH ME RIGHT NOW. IT DEPENDS ON WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH IT.

THE REMOTE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. WHEN I GO TO A RESTAURANT THEN I PULL OUT MY MINI MIC. BUT I DON'T USE IT OTHERWISE. I DON'T HAVE A BLUE TOOTH PHONE SO I DON'T TUESDAY WITH THE PHONE. BUT I HAVE A KINDLE AND I CAN STREAM SOUND THROUGH THE PHONE CLIP. BECKY DIDN'T MENTION THAT. THERE ARE OTHER USES FOR PHONE CLIP. IT DEPENDS ON YOUR PERSONAL LIFESTYLE.

>>: THAT WOULD BE SOMETHING HE WORKS WITH AND DETERMINES WHICH IS BEST FOR HIM.

>>: YOU ARE ALLOWED SO MANY ACCESSORIES. YOU WANT THE BIG REMOTE, THIS IS NECESSARY.

>>: YOU HAVE TO DECIDE ON THOSE ACCESSORIES IN THE BEGINNING?

>>: YES.

>>: IF YOU CHOOSE ONE AND IT IS NOT WORKING --

>>: IF YOU ARE GOING TO TALK COME UP FRONT.

>>: I JUST WANTED TO SAY CHOOSE YOUR ACCESSORIES BEFORE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT. IF YOU DON'T OPEN THEM YOU CAN CHANGE ANYTHING. IT IS OKAY. DON'T USE IT UNTIL YOU KNOW YOU WANT IT. ONCE YOU KNOW YOU WANT IT, IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT BUT HAVE SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN EXCHANGE IT.

>>: CAN YOU BUY ONE, I DON'T HAVE THE PHONE CLIP, COULD I BUY THAT.
BECKY: YOU CAN BUY ADDITIONAL ACCESSORIES IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT.

>>: HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT UNTIL YOU TRY IT?

BECKY: YOU COME HERE AND YOU TALK TO THESE PEOPLE AND YOU TALK ABOUT YOUR LIFESTYLE AND WHAT YOU DO EVERY DAY. YOU TALK ABOUT THE PHONE YOU HAVE.

IF YOU DON'T HAVE A BLUE TOOTH PHONE YOU WOULDN'T GET A PHONE FLIP. REALLY THIS IS INSTRUMENTAL. IT IS GREAT YOU ARE HERE TODAY.

>>: I JUST WANT TO SAY I WAS ACTIVATED A MONTH -- TWO MONTHS AGO. I DIDN'T HAVE TO PICK ANY ACCESSORIES, MY AUDIOLOGIST DID IT FOR ME. THERESA HAMMER. SHE JUST TALKS ABOUT MY LIFESTYLE. IN THE CASE -- I DIDN'T GET AT SURGERY, THEY WAIT UNTIL YOU ARE ACTIVATED TO GIVE THAT NOW.

>>: DAD GOT HIS, HE WAS ACTIVATED LAST WEDNESDAY AND HE GOT HIS KIT THE DAY OF SURGERY. BUT HIS AUDIOLOGIST LISA HOUSTON, HE HAS THE REMOTE, EXTRA BATTERY, MINI MIC. SHE SHOWED US A COUPON OR CARD WHERE HE GETS ONE MORE ITEM. SHE SAID WAIT UNTIL HE WORKS WITH ALL OF THESE ACCESSORIES AND THEN DECIDE WHAT WORKS FOR HIM. HE HAS ONE MORE ITEM COMING.

THAT WAS IN HIS KIT WITH THE PAPERWORK AND CD.

>>: THERE IS A REMOTE, PHONE CLIP, TV THING --

>>: DRYER.

THERE IS A COUPON OR CARD YOU CAN USE.

>>: SHE WAS ACTIVATED TWO MONTHS AGO. WHEN THEY ACTIVATE IT YOU DON'T NEED ALL OF THOSE ACCESSORIES.

FOR THREE MONTHS SHE DIDN'T HAVE THOSE ACTIVATED. THERESA SAID I WANT YOU TO LEARN WITH YOUR PROCESSOR FIRST. AS MUCH AS WE WANTED TO GET INTO THE BAG OF GOODIES WE DIDN'T AND IT HELPED HER TO LEARN WITH THE IMPLANT.

WHEN SHE ACTIVATED SHE HAS A PHONE CLIP. I CALLED HER THE OTHER DAY AND I DIDN'T HAVE TO REPEAT MYSELF. IT IS BEAUTIFUL. IT IS PIPING IT INTO THE 22 ELECTRODES IN HER HEAD.

THAT IS THE PHONE CLIP. THE MINI MIC WE USE IT NOW AND THEN IF WE ARE HAVING A CONVERSATION OR SOMEONE IN THE ROOM SHE WILL USE IT.

MOST OF THE TIME SHE DOESN'T USE THE MINI MIC.

THE TV STREAMER ALLOWS HER TO WATCH TV AT NIGHT. IF I AM SITTING NEXT TO HER, SHE CAN STILL HEAR ME TALK BUT THE TV IS DOMINANT.

ALL OF THOSE DEVICES WON'T ACTIVATE -- THEY DON'T WANT YOU PLAYING WITH IT. I AM SURE ALL AUDIOLOGIST ARE DIFFERENT BUT THERESA WANTED HER TO WAIT TO ACTIVATE ANY OF THOSE THINGS. THEY SAID DON'T USE YOUR HEARING AID IN THE OTHER EAR BECAUSE WE DON'T WANT THAT AS A CRUTCH. WE WANT YOU TO LEARN WITH THIS.

>>: YOU MAKE A GOOD POINT. NOT ALL AUDIOLOGIST HAVE THE SAME PHILOSOPHY.

I AM WORKING WITH A GENTLEMEN, MICHAEL IS NOT HERE TODAY. HE HAD

THERESA AND ALL HE HAD WAS THE VOLUME. IT DRIVES ME CRAZY BECAUSE HE LIVES ALONE. HE HAS NO STIMULATION. WHEN I TALK WITH HIM HE WISHES THE SENSITIVITY -- I WISH HE HAD THE SENSITIVITY. THAT MUST BE HER PHILOSOPHY, I WILL FORCE YOU TO LISTEN. LISA WAS DIFFERENT.

MY AUDIOLOGIST IN NEW YORK WAS DIFFERENT. IT DEPENDS ON THE AUDIOLOGIST. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ALSO TO ASK FOR SOME OF THAT. YOU PAY FOR IT.

>>: I HAVE A QUESTION FROM WHAT SHE WAS TALKING ABOUT SENSITIVITY. JUST HAVING VOLUME. I THOUGHT THE REMOTE CONTROL IS WHAT THERESA ENCOURAGED YOU TO USE, HAD BOTH.

BECKY: SENSITIVITY AND VOLUME. IT DOES.

>>: THERE ARE FOUR PROGRAMS. THIS IS THE FIVE, BASICALLY THE SAME AS SIX. THEY ARE JUST NAMED DIFFERENT. THEY ARE GOING TO DO THE SAME THINGS. MINE IS BLUE TOOTH CAPABLE, YOURS WOULD BE TOO IF YOU HAVE A SMART PHONE.

MINE SAY EVERY DAY, NOISE, FOCUS, AND MUSIC.

>>: DOES THAT INCLUDE THE TELEPHONE

>>: IT HAS A BUTTON TO USE BLUE TOOTH.

>>: NOT THE N FIVE?

>>: I CAN CONNECT TO BLUE TOOTH. THE T-COIL WITH A HEARING AID, WHEN YOU HIT THE BUTTON FOR THE BLUE TOOTH IT ACTIVATES THAT --

>>: IF IN FIVE IT IS NOT BLUE TOOTH.

>>: IT IS NOT BUT IT CONNECTS.

>>: MAYBE AFTERWARDS YOU CAN TALK WITH JANICE 1 TO 1.

>>: I THINK WE ARE GETTING INTO A LOT OF TECHNICAL QUESTIONS RIGHT NOW.

CAN WE LET BECKY FINISH AND MAYBE A FEW QUESTIONS AND THEN WE WILL BREAK INTO GROUPS AND THEN YOU WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO ASK EVERY QUESTION YOU EVER HAD.

BECKY: THANK YOU.

SO WHAT I HAVE, SCAN, AT HOME, I DON'T USE THIS.

MY HUSBAND SAYS I SHOULD TUESDAY WHEN I DON'T WANT TO HEAR HIM AT HOME. (LAUGHTER)

CAFE, WHICH I LOVE. THAT IS AT A RESTAURANT. GROUPS. MORE THAN ONE PERSON TALKING TO ME, TYPICALLY AT A RESTAURANT.

THE ADDITIONAL RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES, ONE COMES WITH PROCESSOR AND I GOT ANOTHER ONE. I USE ONE ON EVEN DAYS AND ONE ON ODD DAYS. I GIVE THEM EACH A BREAK.

REGULAR BATTERIES ARE AVAILABLE, YOU KNOW HOW THOSE WORK. THEY ARE RECYCLABLE.

I DON'T USE MINE BUT NEXT TIME I TRAVEL I MIGHT.

I MIGHT KEEP THEM IN MY PURSE BECAUSE ONE DAY I SPENT THE NIGHT AT MY SISTER'S HOUSE AND FORGOT TO BRING MY CHARGER.

THE IDEA OR THOUGHT OF HAVING TO GO THROUGH THE NEXT DAY WITHOUT MY COCHLEAR FUNCTIONING PUT ME INTO A PANIC.

MY WONDERFUL KNIGHT AND SHINING ARMOR BROUGHT IT TO ME AN HOUR AWAY. HE KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT THIS IS.

YOU WILL HEAR FROM HIM IN A MINUTE.

THE DRYER. YOU WANT TO USE THIS EVERY DAY. I PUT MY HEARING AID IN THIS AT NIGHT ALSO.

HERE IS THE FUN PART. ACTIVATION: IT IS SCARY. WE HAVE SEEN THESE VIDEO OF PEOPLE CRYING ON THE DAY OF ACTIVATION. THAT WASN'T NECESSARILY ME.

EVERYTHING SOUNDED SO STRANGE. MY HUSBAND AND DAUGHTER CAME AND THEY CRIED, I WAS FINE.

IT WAS ABOUT A YEAR AGO, WHAT I NOTICED FIRST AND FORMOST, THERE WAS A NANOSECOND OF A SOUND DELAY. I WOULD SEE THERESA'S MOUTH MOVING AND THEN I WOULD HEAR THIS HIGH ROBOTIC VOICE IN MY HEAD. I THOUGHT LORD, IS THIS WHAT IT IS GOING TO SOUND LIKE? NO. IT DIDN'T STAY THAT WAY.

EVERYONE SOUNDED THE SAME. THERESA SOUNDED LIKE A MOUSE. SHE LET MY HUSBAND AND DAUGHTERS SPEAK TO ME AND THEY ALL SOUNDED ALIKE. THAT WAS ANOTHER MOMENT OF PANIC. HOW AM I GOING TO TELL THEM APART IF THEY ARE TALKING BEHIND ME.

AGAIN, NOT A PROBLEM.

WITHIN MINUTES, IN FACT WHEN THERESA STARTED TALKING AGAIN AFTER THEY TALKED I COULD TELL HER VOICE ALREADY DROPPED. IT WASN'T SO MUCH MINI MOUSE ANYMORE.

AS TIME GOES ON I REALIZED ALL THE VOICES WILL DROP AND SOUND NORMAL.

XYLOPHONE NOISES. DID ANYONE EXPERIENCE THAT AT ALL.

>>: MINE WAS A ROAR.

>>: REALLY. I DID HEAR THAT.

THOSE GO AWAY TOO.

IT WAS ODD, WITH EVERY NOISE, A VOICE, A DOOR SHUTTING, DOG BARKING... THERE WAS A CORRESPONDING XYLOPHONE. THAT DROVE ME A LITTLE CRAZY.

SOMETIMES THE NOISES SOUNDED LIKE VOICES. I WOULD HAVE TO STOP AND SAY IS SOMEONE TALKING. NO ONE WAS THERE.

ABOUT FIVE WEEKS AFTER ACTIVATION, I YOUNGEST DAUGHTER CALLED ME UP AND SAID HOW IS THE XYLOPHONE DO YOU STILL HEAR IT? I REALIZED IT WAS GONE. IT WAS SO GRADUAL THAT I DIDN'T REALIZE.

I DID WAKE UP ONE DAY AND PUT ON MY PROCESSOR AND THERE WERE NO FUNNY NOISES.

I HEARD A NUMBER OF BEEPS. WHEN YOU FIRST PUT IT ON THE NUMBER OF BEEPS CORRESPONDS TO THE PROGRAM YOU HAVE IT SET ON.

IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO REALIZE THAT THE BEEPS CORRESPONDED TO THE PROGRAM.

I WAS NEVER ABLE TO DISTINGUISH THOSE FROM THE XYLOPHONE BEFORE. AFTER A COUPLE WEEKS I COULD.

FOR ME, EVERYTHING SOUNDED TERRIFIC AFTER FIVE WEEKS.

CRICKETS AND CICADAS I HAD NO IDEA HOW LOUD THEY WERE. THEY WERE THE MOST JOY FULL NOISE I HEARD. I GREW UP IN THE COUNTRY HEARING THOSE CRICKETS. I ALWAYS MISSED THOSE. IT WAS THE FIRST THING I COMMENTED ONTO MY FAMILY. I CAN HEAR CRICKETS AGAIN.

MY HUSBAND AND I WOULD WALK AND I WOULD SAY WHAT IS THAT, IS THAT A CRICKET OR A CICADA? HE WOULD HELP ME DISTINGUISH. THAT IS WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE SUPPORT WHEN YOU GO THROUGH THIS JOURNEY AND HAVE SOMEONE TO ANSWER THOSE TYPES OF QUESTIONS FOR ME.

MY SPEECH CHANGED.

I NOTICED RIGHT AWAY I DIDN'T TALK SO LOUD TO HEAR MYSELF. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE BUT IT WAS TRUE FOR ME.

I FOUND MYSELF ALMOST WHISPERING AND STILL BEING ABLE TO HEAR MYSELF SPEAK WHAT I THOUGHT WAS NORMAL VOLUME.

SEVERAL PEOPLE REMARKED TO ME IN A COUPLE WEEKS. THEY SAID YOU ARE TALKING DIFFERENT, I CAN HEAR IT. THAT WAS KIND OF A COOL THING TOO.

JUST LAST WEEK I WAS HAVING A CONVERSATION WITH MY DAUGHTER AND I FOUND OUT I WAS SAYING THESE TWO WORDS WRONG ALL MY LIFE.

DIVORCE. I ALWAYS READ IT DIVORCIS. THAT WAS THE WAY I PRONOUNCED IT. I HEARD MY DAUGHTER SAY IT AND THOUGHT I WAS SAYING IT WRONG.

>>: THEY WERE NOT TALKING ABOUT HUSBAND. AT LEAST I DON'T THINK.

(LAUGHTER)

BECKY: ALSO DECAPRIO. I ALWAYS STRUGGLED WITH WHERE THE EMPHASIS WAS IN HIS NAME.

JUST LAST WEEK, A YEAR AFTER I LEARNED THE RIGHT WAY TO SAY IT.

IT IS A CONSTANT EVOLVING PROCESS.

YOU HEAR PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE. I USED ANGEL SOUNDS RIGHT AWAY.

I KNEW HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO PRACTICE. I WAS FRUSTRATED WHEN I FIRST STARTED USING IT.

MY HUSBAND WILL TELL YOU, I PUT IT UP DAY 2 OR 3 AFTER ACTIVATION. I WENT THROUGH THE SIMPLE PROCESS OF LISTENING TO THE ALPHABET.

THEY ALL SOUNDED ALIKE. A LETTER I THOUGHT WAS VERY DISTINCTIVE I COULDN'T DISTINGUISH IT FROM ANY OTHER LETTER IN THE ALPHABET. I

WAS UPSET. HE CAME OUT ON THE PORCH AND FOUND ME REALLY FRUSTRATED. I COULDN'T UNDERSTAND HIM. THAT IS NOT AN ISSUE ANYMORE. THAT IS A TYPICAL NEW RECIPIENT ISSUE. IT WILL GO AWAY.

>>: HOW LONG?

BECKY: IT IS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYBODY. I CAN ONLY SAY AFTER FIVE WEEKS THOSE NOISES WENT AWAY AND I CAN'T TELL YOU EXACTLY WHEN THE ALPHABET STARTED SOUNDING THE WAY IT SHOULD SOUND. I NEVER WENT BACK TO THAT PAGE. I WAS SO DEMORALIZED. I SAID TO MY

HUSBAND THIS MORNING, I WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT ALPHABET PAGE. I WILL KICK ITS BUTT. I WILL GET 100%. THAT IS MY HOMEWORK TODAY.

BOOKS ON TAPE OR AUDIO BOOKS ON YOUR PHONE. WONDERFUL WAYS TO

PRACTICE.

I GO UP TO SEE MY PARENTS IN OXFORD ONCE A WEEK. THAT IS AN HOUR TRIP FOR ME. I TURN ON THE RADIO OR PUT IN A CD. NOW I WILL START USING AUDIO BOOKS FROM MY PHONE SO IT WILL GO IN HERE. THAT I WILL PRACTICE AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK.

I DON'T NECESSARILY SIT DOWN AND PRACTICE EVERYDAY THE WAY I USED TO.

BUT, PRACTICE CAN BE ANY ACTIVITY YOU ARE FOCUSED ON THE SOUND AND TRYING TO INTERPRET THAT SOUND. FOCUS IS WHAT YOU ARE DRIVING FOR.

DON'T FEEL LIKE IF YOU DON'T SIT DOWN AT THE COMPUTER THAT DAY YOU DIDN'T PRACTICE.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN ZOOMING IN ON THE PHONE, RADIO, TV OR TALKING TO SOMEONE IN A NOISY ENVIRONMENT. YOU HAVE BEEN PRACTICING THAT DAY AND GOOD FOR YOU.

CI SUPPORT GROUP, THAT IS US.

THIS IS BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I HAVE DONE TO HELP MY JOURNEY. IT HAS MADE MY JOURNEY SUCCESSFUL.

ALL OF YOU THAT HAVE ANSWERED MY QUESTIONS HAVE MADE ME MORE SUCCESSFUL.

DR. SAMY AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING CALLED A BUDDY PROGRAM.

FOR ME DEB TURNER IN THIS GROUP WHO IS NOT HERE TODAY. SHE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN GETTING ME TO USE MY PHONE CLIP CORRECTLY.

I WANT TO BE THAT FOR SOMEONE ELSE. I THINK WE ALL FEEL THAT WAY.

ALL OF US THAT HAVE BEEN RECIPIENTS AND HAD A SUCCESSFUL JOURNEY.

WE WANT TO HELP THOSE JUST STARTING OUT ON YOUR JOURNEY. WE ARE

TALKING ABOUT SETTING UP A BUDDY PROGRAM WHERE YOU CAN TALK TO

SOMEONE THAT YOU RELATE TO OR LIVE CLOSE TO AND WORK WITH THAT

PEOPLE TO GET THROUGH THE HUMP^s THAT OCCUR IN YOUR JOURNEY.

HOW HAS MY LIFE CHANGED NOW THAT I HAVE THIS SUPER POWER. I FEEL

LIKE I SHOULD WEAR A CAPE. I FEEL LIKE A SUPER PERSON BECAUSE I HAVE

SUPER SONIC HEARING.

CONVERSATIONS ARE PLEASURABLE. I DON'T HAVE TO WORK AT HEARING

AT ALL. I CAN STAND TO A BACK TO A PERSON -- MY FAMILY PROBLEM SAYS

THEY DON'T SEE AS MUCH OF ME ANYMORE BECAUSE I HAVE MY BACK TO

THEM.

IT IS EASIER TO TALK.

I HAVE DIRECTIONAL HEARING AGAIN SO WHEN THE DOG IS BARKING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD I KNOW WHICH ONE ITSELF.

I CAN CONVERSE FROM ANYWHERE. IN THE HOUSE, ROOM, CAR BACKYARD.

I CAN HEAR YOU FROM JUST ABOUT ANYWHERE.

I HAVE A FUNNY STORY ABOUT THE CAR.

MY KIDS HAVE LEARNED THEY CAN TALK TO DAD ABOUT MOM AND MOM

WON'T HEAR THEM IF SHE IS STANDING RIGHT THERE.

THAT WORKS IN A GOOD WAY, THEY CAN DECIDE WHAT TO GET ME FOR

CHRISTMAS OR BIRTHDAY EVEN WHEN I WAS RIGHT THERE.
I KNEW THEY WERE TALKING BUT I COULDN'T HEAR THEM. IT WAS TOO MUCH ENERGY TO FOCUS ON THE CONVERSATION.

ONE DAY WE WERE IN THE CAR, I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO HEAR WELL IN THE CAR.

I WAS IN THE BACK SEAT AND MY DAUGHTER WAS IN THE FRONT AND MY HUSBAND WAS DRIVING.

I HAPPEN TO MENTION THE NAME OF AN OLD BOYFRIEND -- I DON'T KNOW WHY IT CAME UP BUT IT CAME UP -- SORRY.

MY DAUGHTER TURNED TO MY HUSBAND AND SAID OUT OF THE SIDE OF HER MOUTH. SHE SAID I BET YOU ARE SICK OF HEARING THAT NAME ARE NOT YOU. I WAS IN THE BACK AND I SAID I HEARD THAT.

NOW THEY CAN NOT TALK ABOUT ME OR ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME IN FRONT OF ME ANYMORE.

THE SAME WONDERFUL THING HAPPENED AT CHRISTMAS TIME. I HAD NOT GOTTEN TO GO WITH MY FAMILY WHEN I WAS ACTIVATED AND HOLIDAYS. WE HAD A FAMILY GATHERING AND I GOT UP FROM THE TABLE TO GO TO THE KITCHEN AND GET SOMETHING.

ONE OF MY SISTERS SAID SOMETHING AND SHE ASKED A QUESTION. I FOUND MYSELF ANSWERING HER FROM THE OTHER ROOM.

SHE WAS SHOCKED. BLOWN AWAY. SHE TOO LEARNED THEY COULD NOT TALK ABOUT ME WHEN I WAS IN THE ROOM.

MY CONFIDENCE SOARED. YOU FEEL SO CONFIDENT WHEN YOU KNOW YOU CAN WALK INTO ANY SITUATION, INTERVIEW, MEETING A NEW PERSON, TRAVELING.

MY INSECURITY PLUMMETED.

ONE THING BRIAN TOLD ME, HE SAID YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MANAGE YOUR RELATIONSHIPS BETTER.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN BRIAN? HE SAID DON'T WORRY YOU WILL FIGURE IT OUT WHEN IT HAPPENS.

HE WAS RIGHT. HEARING IMPAIRED PEOPLE WE ARE GRATEFUL AND ANY AND EVERY CONVERSATION SOMEONE HAS WITH US. WE ARE GRATEFUL THEY ARE TALKING TO US BECAUSE WE KNOW IT IS AN EFFORT TO TALK TO US. NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO MAKE THAT EFFORT.

NOW -- BACK TO THAT -- YOU WANT TO TALK TO EVERYBODY AND YOU WILL PUT UP WITH TALKING TO EVERYBODY. EVEN PEOPLE THAT MIGHT BE ANNOYING OR DISPARAGING OF YOU. YOU WILL PUT UP WITH EVERYBODY. ONCE YOU CAN HEAR EVERYBODY YOU ARE ABLE TO PICK AND CHOOSE WHO YOU TALK TO A LITTLE MORE SELECTIVELY.

I DON'T NEED TO TALK TO THIS BOZO ANYMORE. I CAN FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE THAT RESPECT ME FOR WHO I AM AND NOT TAKE EVERY LITTLE BIT OF CONVERSATION THAT COMES MY WAY.

DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

THAT IS WHAT BRIAN WAS TELLING ME AND IT IS TRUE.

YOGA IS SOMETHING I HAVE BEEN DOING ABOUT SIX YEARS. THERE ARE TIMES YOU ARE UPSIDE DOWN, DOWN DOG, YOU CAN'T SEE THE INSTRUCTOR

AND CERTAINLY NOT LIP READ YOUR INSTRUCTOR.
I WOULD STRUGGLE IN YOGA TRYING TO FIND SOMEONE THAT I COULD SEE
WHEN I WAS UPSIDE DOWN SO I WOULD KNOW WHEN WE WERE CHANGING
POSITIONS.

ONE DAY AFTER MY ACTIVATION, WELL AFTER ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES
WENT AWAY, I WAS SITTING IN YOGA IN A RELAXING POSE AND I CLOSED MY
EYES. I COULD ACTUALLY CLOSE MY EYES AND HEAR WHAT MY
INSTRUCTOR WAS SAYING. I INVOLUNTARILY STARTED TO CRY.
IT WAS A JOYFUL MOMENT FOR ME TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS NOW. THAT WAS
A LIFE CHANGER FOR ME.

I DEVELOPED NEW SKILLS.

PROBABLY THE MOST PRIMARY SKILL IS THE ABILITY TO BE A LEADER.

I AM A MEMBER. MASON KIWANIS. I WAS BEHIND THE SCENES UNTIL NOW.
THEY ASKED ME TO BE PRESIDENT ABOUT A YEAR AGO, I ALWAYS SAID NO.
ONCE I KNEW I WAS GOING TO DO THE SURGERY I SAID YES, I WILL BE
PRESIDENT.

MY PRESIDENCY WAS DUE TO START A YEAR FROM OCTOBER 1ST.

OCTOBER OF 2017 I WAS GOING TO STEP UP AS PRESIDENT.

THE GUY IN LINE BEFORE ME QUIT AND SUDDENLY ASKING ME TO STEP UP AS
PRESIDENT A YEAR EARLIER.

I WAS ACTIVATED IN AUGUST. THEY WERE WANTING ME TO STEP UP
OCTOBER 1ST. I WAS SCARED TO DEATH. I HAD NO IDEA WHAT MY HEARING
WOULD BE LIKE THAT QUICKLY AFTER ACTIVATION.

I GAVE THEM A CONDITIONAL YES. FROM DAY ONE IT HAS BEEN NO
PROBLEM.

NOW I AM LEADING AN ORGANIZATION OF 70 PEOPLE. RUN A WEEKLY
MEETING OF 35 PEOPLE. KIM IS A MEMBER AND SHE CAN TELL ME THERE
ARE COMMENTS FLYING ALL OVER THE ROOM. USUALLY ABOUT 90% OF THE
TIME I CAN PICK THEM UP.

ONCE A MONDAY I HAVE A BOARD MEETING OF 15 PEOPLE. YOU HAVE 3 OR 4
PEOPLE TALKING AT THE SAME TIME. I CAN FOLLOW THAT. IT IS SO
WONDERFUL.

WHEN I GO TO KIWANIS CONVENTION I CAN HEAR WHAT THE SPEAKERS ARE
SAYING EVEN IF I AM NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO LIP READ. I CAN SIT IN THE
BACK AND FOLLOW THE PRESENTATION. THAT IS A MAJOR LIFE CHANGER
FOR ME.

THAT SUMS UP MY JOURNEY WHERE I STARTED AND WHERE I ENDED UP.

I KNOW YOU ALL HAVE LOTS OF COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.

HOW MANY TIME DO WE HAVE FOR THOSE?

>>: 5 OR 10 MINUTES.

>>: YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE ACCESSORIES, DOES ANYONE HAVE A
LIST OF ALL OF THEM THAT YOU CAN AT LEAST LOOK AT?

>>SPEAKER: THE AUDIOLOGIST SHOULD GIVE YOU A LIST. YOU CAN FIND
THE LIST ON LINE. I DON'T KNOW THE EXACT WEBSITE.

>>: COCHLEAR'S WEBSITE.

TYPE IN COCHLEAR AMERICA AND THERE IS A TAB THAT SAYS ACCESSORIES.

THAT IS WHERE I GOT A LOT OF THESE PICTURES.

>>: DO YOU HAVE JUST ONE COCHLEAR?

>>SPEAKER: I DO.

I LOST THIS SIDE AND THAT IS THE SIDE. DR. SAMY SAID DOWN THE ROAD I ENCOURAGE YOU TO GET THE OTHER. THAT WILL RETAIN THE LITTLE BIT ON THIS SIDE WHILE BUMPING UP

>>: DO YOU WEAR A HEARING AID?

>>: I DO. IT PROVIDES RICH LOW TONES MISSING FROM MY IMPLANT. DR. SAMY EXPLAINED TO ME, WHEN THEY WIRE AND PUSH IN THAT WIRE INTO YOUR COCHLEA, THEY CAN ONLY GO SO FAR WITHOUT DOING DAMAGE TO THE COCHLEA. THEY ARE NOT ABLE TO GET THAT WIRE ALL THE WAY DEEP INTO THE END OF THE COCHLEA.

THAT IS WHERE THE LOW TONES ARE HEARD.

THEREFORE, I AM MISSING SOME OF THOSE LOW TONES. I HAVE THEM HERE.

I DO FINE WITH THE IMPLANT ALONE, WHEN I AM GOING OUT OF THE HOUSE I LIKE TO HAVE MY HEARING AID AS WELL TO PROVIDE THAT RICH DEPTH OF SOUND.

>>: DID YOU HAVE SPEECH DISCRIMINATION IN THE EAR YOU HAD THE HEARING AID IN?

>>SPEAKER: NO.

>>STUDENT: WHAT IS YOUR LOSS IN THAT?

>>SPEAKER: BEFORE THE IMPLANT THEY SAID I WAS UNDERSTANDING ABOUT 12%.

>>: WHAT RANGE OF HEARING DID YOU HAVE?

>>SPEAKER: IT WAS A VERY LOW TONE. THE AUDIO GRAM -- IT LOOKED LIKE A CLIP. IT STARTED LOW AND IT DROPPED OFF.

>>: I HAVE SOME HEARING IN BOTH EARS BUT IT IS VERY LITTLE. I AM NOT EVEN SURE IF I CAN HEAR WHAT I AM FEELING WHEN THE TV IS ON LOUD OR PLANES GOING BY OR TRAINS GOING BY.

WHEN I PUT ON MY HEARING AID AFTER I HAD COCHLEAR IMPLANT ACTIVATED, I THOUGHT IT WAS BROKEN. IT WAS PRETTY OLD. I GOT A NEW ONE AND STILL COULDN'T HEAR ANYTHING.

I THOUGHT OKAY, SINCE MOST OF WHAT HAPPENS IS YOUR BRAIN INTERPRETING EVERYTHING WHICH IS WHAT MAKES THE FUNNY SOUNDS SOUND REGULAR OVER TIME.

I SAID I AM GOING TO TAKE THIS OFF AND JUST WEAR THE HEARING AID. AFTER A CERTAIN PERIOD OF TIME I COULD HEAR AGAIN, HEARING AID STYLE. BUT MY RANGES WOULDN'T ACCEPT THIS AT ALL.

>>SPEAKER: INTERESTING.

>>: I LIKE HEARING YOUR STORY BUT YOU HAVE HAD A PROBLEM WITH HEARING SINCE YOU WERE YOUNG AS A CHILD. CAN YOU ADDRESS THE COCHLEAR TO PEOPLE WHO ARE -- WHO HAVE NOT BEEN HEARING IMPAIRED AS A CHILD AND MAYBE JUST STARTED HAVING HEARING PROBLEMS IN 50'S AND 60'S, THE DIFFERENCE FOR PEOPLE THAT THE THAT AGE VERSUS SOMEONE THAT HAD HEARING PROBLEMS AS A CHILD?

>>SPEAKER: I AM SURE IT IS DIFFERENT -- I CANNOT SPEAK OF THAT. WHO LOST YOUR HEARING LATER IN LIFE? ANYONE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE. JANICE COME UP, KEEP IT SHORT

>>: I WAS NOT BORN WITH HEARING LOSS. I COME FROM A FAMILY WITH HEARING LOSS ACROSS THE BOARD. DADDY COULDN'T WEAR ANYTHING. HE WORE HEARING AIDS. I CAN'T SAY THEY DID HIM GOOD. WHEN MY OLDER SISTER, FATHER, MYSELF AND OLDEST BROTHER, HAVE A SENSORY OTOROLYMPIC SCLEROSIS TYPE OF HEARING. MY MOTHER AND OTHER BROTHER HAVE SOUND DAMAGE. THERE IS A VARIATION OF WHAT CAUSES HEARING LOSS. MY OLDEST SISTER WAS DIAGNOSED IN MID TO LATE 30'S.

>>SPEAKER: YOU ARE NOT ANSWERING THE QUESTION. HE HAD HEARING LOSS LATER IN LIFE.

>>: WHEN YOU GET LATER IN LIFE YOU DON'T REALIZE WHAT YOU LOST UNTIL THE FIRST DAY YOU GET A HEARING AID AND COME OUT OF THE OFFICE AND SAY WOW, I CAN HEAR SO MUCH MORE.

YOUR HEARING IS STILL PROGRESSIVELY GETTING WORSE.

WHEN YOU GET IMPLANTED FOR THE FIRST TIME AND THE FIRST TIME AFTER SOME OF THE SOUNDS LEVEL OUT A LITTLE BIT. THERE IS AN ADJUSTMENT THERE TIME FRAME WISE.

I REMEMBER DRIVING HOME ONE DAY FROM WORK AND IT WAS RAINING. IT WAS A LIGHT GENTLE RAIN. I COULD HEAR THE RAIN DROPS HITTING THE CAR. I DON'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I HEARD THAT.

YOUR HEARING BECAUSE IT PROGRESSES, YOU HAVE TO WORK FOR IT. YOU HAVE TO WORK AND GO THROUGH AND PRACTICE AS BECKY WAS SAYING.

TODAY MY HEARING IS SO MUCH BETTER AND I CAN PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES. I CAN COME TO THIS GROUP AND TALK TO PEOPLE THAT I COULDN'T DO BEFORE. I THINK IT IS --

>>: I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS MORE CONCRETELY. PEOPLE THAT ALWAYS USE HEARING AND AUDITORY MEMORY. PEOPLE I HAVE ENCOUNTERED TEND TO DO VERY VERY WELL.

>>: THAT IS WHAT I WAS WONDERING. HE NEVER HAD A HEARING PROBLEM UNTIL HE WAS LIKE IN HIS MID 60'S.

>>: DID HE WEAR A HEARING AID?

>>: THREE SETS.

>>: HE WILL PROBABLY DO WELL BECAUSE HE HAS AUDITORY MEMORY.

>>: MY OLDEST SISTER DIDN'T HAVE SOUND ON THE FIRST SIDE, THE SIDE THEY DID THE IMPLANT ON FOR PROBABLY TEN YEARS. IT TOOK HER LONGER WHEN SHE WAS ACTIVATED TO RETRAIN THE BRAIN TO MAKE IT WORK AND UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON.

WITH HER SECOND COCHLEAR IMPLANT SHE HAD SOUND ON THAT SIDE AND NOW ALSO ON THE OTHER SIDE SO IT WAS A MUCH FASTER PROCESS.

>>: I JUST WANT TO SAY, I LOST MY HEARING AT TWO AND A HALF. I HAD RESIDUAL HEARING LIKE YOU. SO, OVER TIME IT DOES DETERIORATE. SOMETIMES I NEVER HEARD. YOU LOST YOUR HEARING LATER SO YOU HAVE

MORE MEMORY OF WHAT THE SOUNDS ARE AND YOU ARE ABLE TO MAKE THAT CONNECTION WHEN YOU HEAR THAT SOUND FASTER. WHERE I HAVE TO LEARN WHAT A SOUND WAS THAT I NEVER HEARD.

>>: OKAY, WE WILL BREAK INTO GROUPS. I WANT MY VOLUNTEERS TO COME UP.

>>SPEAKER: THERE ARE SO MANY OF YOU FAMILY MEMBERS I WANT TO ADDRESS YOU.

YOU ARE SO VITALLY IMPORTANT TO THE SUCCESS OF YOUR JOURNEY. MY HUSBAND IS A SHINING EXAMPLE FOR ME AND SEE IF HE COULD HAVE A COUPLE THINGS TO SAY TO YOU OR YOU CAN SPEAK TO HIM AFTER THE MEETING.

THIS IS MY HUSBAND STEVE OSBORNE.

>>: I DON'T KNOW HOW TO FOLLOW YOUR PRESENTATION. THAT WAS WICKED.

I WAS SCARED TO DEATH AFTER HER GETTING A COCHLEAR IMPLANT. I ONLY HAVE TWO EARS AND I SAID I ONLY HAVE ONE OF YOU.

IF YOU ARE A SPOUSE, YOU ARE IN VALUABLE TO THE PROCESS. YOUR SUPPORT IN HELPING THEM RECODE AND DECODE IS CRITICAL.

I CAN TELL YOU AS SOMEONE ON THE OTHER END OF THAT JOURNEY, IT HAS CHANGED OUR LIVES. IT ABSOLUTELY CHANGED OUR LIVES. IT HAS BEEN LIFE ALTERING.

WHEN WE WERE GETTING MARRYING I MADE THE ASSUMPTION AND DECISION THAT BECKY WAS GOING TO GO TOTALLY DEAF. I WAS OKAY WITH THAT. I MADE THAT DECISION BEFORE I GOT DOWN ON MY KNEE.

IRONICALLY THE OPPOSITE IS TRUE. SHE CAN HEAR DISH RECENTLY GOT A FEW HEARING AIDS BECAUSE MY HEARING WAS ERODING. I CAN TELL YOU MY WIFE HEARS BETTER THAN I DO. IT IS JUST SO BIZARRE WHEN YOU CONSIDER HOW WE STARTED OFF AS A COUPLE.

IF YOU ARE A SPOUSE PLEASE COME TO ME, I CAN TELL YOU ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW. PLEASE UNDERSTAND YOUR ROLE AND HOW CRITICALLY VITAL AND IMPORTANT IT IS TO THE SUCCESS.

I WANT TO THANK DR. SAMY AND ARE THIS COCHLEAR GROUP. WE HAVE BEEN HERE 18 MONTHS.

(APPLAUSE)

THE PEOPLE THAT COME TO THE GROUP AND RUN THE GROUP AND VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME ARE JUST -- THEY ARE FANTASTIC INDIVIDUALS AND IT IS TRULY -- YOU ARE A GODSEND.

>>: YOU MAKE ME CRY.

>>: YOU HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS ABOUT THE N FIVE. I WANT YOU TO GO WITH JANICE OVER HERE. THE ONE IN THE WHITE SHIRT.

WE HAVE ROOM IN HERE AND ROOM OUTSIDE.

HOW MANY OF YOU NEWLY IMPLANTED AND WANT TO TALK TO NEWLY IMPLANTED PEOPLE?

YOU GO WITH MARY JO. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT A HYBRID YOU CAN ALSO GO WITH HER.

HOW MANY HAVE QUESTIONS IF AN IMPLANT IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

DO PEOPLE WANT TO TALK TO BECKY ONE TO ONE?
WE HAVE LONG-TERM RECIPIENTS.
YOU ARE FREE TO TALK AMONG EACH OTHER. IF YOU WANT TO GO TO A
GROUP THAT IS FINE.
THE MEETING NEXT MONTH IS AT BRIAN'S HOUSE AND THERE ARE FLYERS
OUT THERE.
FIND YOUR GROUP OR TALK TO OTHER PEOPLE.