

From: Helen Touster [<mailto:hdt546@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2010 5:11 PM
To: mshapiro@foundationforsightandsound.com
Subject: Thank you Mitch! Helen Touster's testimonial

Dear Mitch,

Too often, in my conversations with people, I would say, "Excuse me, what did you say?" I was frustrated; my family and friends were frustrated. I was starting to feel isolated.

Then, my son saw an article in our local newspaper about hearing aids. The article discussed how expensive they are. It also mentioned that The Foundation for Sight and Sound offers grants to help people of modest means get them.

I called the Foundation and spoke with Mitch Shapiro. He directed me to the place on their website giving all the information needed to apply for assistance.

From the website I learned what I must do to qualify for approval. I also learned about EarQ, an organization of audiologists, which works with the Foundation by giving free exams and hearing aid fittings to approved applicants.

When Mitch Shapiro called me and said he had received my application, and that I was being considered for approval, I was excited because now I knew I had some hope for getting hearing aids. I waited on pins and needles until I received the heart-lifting phone call from Mitch that I had been approved. I was ecstatic.

From the EarQ website I located Dr. Peg Armamini, an audiologist whose practice was close to my home. I called her, made an appointment and went to see her. Then I relaxed and waited for the next step, which was going to her office to receive the gift of hearing in the form of two little devices, fitted exclusively to my ears.

Now, thanks to The Foundation For Sight and Sound and EarQ, I have excellent hearing aids. They are comfortable and practically invisible. Most important, I can hear clearly and join in the give and take of conversations. I'm no longer the "what did you say?" lady.

These hearing aids have restored a whole dimension I was missing in my life.

I can hear my companions speaking, even in noisy situations like crowds.

And I can once again fully appreciate the music I love.

I am grateful to The Foundation for Sight and Sound for providing this life-enhancing service to me and to the many others who need help to hear.

Sincerely,

Helen Touster