

My brother, Raymond Sandora, spent his childhood in Special Class, as it was referred to in the 1960s. As a teenager, he has tutors that taught him to drive and he passed his driving test in Maine, then again here in NC fifteen years ago. Raymond has always had difficulty hearing. He has taught himself to do so many things that I wonder how bad his hearing was as a child and what he could have learned if he could hear.

Raymond's hearing has deteriorated the last few years. Without hearing aids he can only hear if you face him and he turns toward you. Raymond is also on disability. His father passed away 12 years ago so he had no way to finance new hearing aids. Without the Help America Hear program, his audiologist would be repairing his old hearing aids.

After getting his new hearing aids, I faced forward while driving and spoke to Raymond, who was sitting in the back seat. He could hear and answer me. I asked him what he thought of the hearing aids and he nodded and said I can hear.

Raymond's audiologist at Baptist Hospital spoke highly of the quality of the hearing aids. We were surprised when she said they donate their time with this program. Our only problem was working our way through the other doctors that he needed to see. I can understand why that is a necessary part of the program, but my hearing is becoming bad and I cannot afford the doctors needed for the application.

Other than that issue, you have a wonderful program. Raymond was the first in our area to go through it and I know that you will help many more.

Maria Rutter for Raymond Sandora