



## Popular Teacher Learns a Valuable Lesson

When dedicated middle school teacher Mary Jo Beer started to lose her hearing, everything became more difficult, including teaching and communicating with friends and family.

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Soon after Mary Jo Beer retired from teaching middle school she realized just how much she loved it and returned. But something was different – she was having trouble hearing the students, which affected her ability to teach. For example, she couldn't distinguish between "b", "c", and "d" sounds, which was a real problem when the answers to verbal tests were "A," "B," "C," or "D."

Her husband noticed she kept making the television volume louder and he had to repeat himself more often.

"When I went out with my friends, there were times I couldn't take part in conversations," said Mary Jo, "so I would just act like I was hearing them. But I wasn't really involved."

Her friends decided to conduct an intervention. "One night we were having pizza and drinks," she recalled. "They looked at me and said, 'We're afraid that you're going to start withdrawing and want you to have your hearing tested.'"

Mary Jo knew first-hand what could happen when a person lost their hearing. "I watched my mother become more withdrawn as her hearing worsened, and I didn't want that to happen to me." Mary Jo promised her friends that she'd do something about it, and within a week she had made an appointment to have her hearing checked. "I'd put off getting hearing aids longer than I should have," she admitted.

Mary Jo saw audiologist Bridget Novey at North Carolina Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat, and found out she had major hearing loss. "She is a very vibrant person and was becoming isolated, so we needed a hearing aid that was smart enough to help in very noisy situations," said Dr. Novey. "We decided to fit her with the Siemens Pure® binax because it's small, discreet – virtually invisible. It automatically adapts in very difficult, noisy listening situations."

Mary Jo uses the easyTek™ to connect her hearing aids to Bluetooth®-enabled devices. Her smart hearing aids allow her to listen to music, television, and phone calls directly in her hearing aids, "like my own headsets." She also enjoys the ease of simply putting her hearing aids in the eCharger™ at night, so they're ready to go the next morning.

Mary Jo recently took a road trip with her friends and reported she had no problem being part of every conversation. "I'm hearing things I hadn't before."

She is also back to being effective in the classroom. And she loves how easy it is to communicate again with friends, family, and students. "The best part is I no longer feel isolated!"



*"I feel like I'm back into the center of the conversation and I understand what's being said."*

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