



# Outdoorswoman enriches active lifestyle with hearing aids

Sixty-year-old outdoorswoman Carol Whirley began losing her hearing while working as a school teacher. Her hearing loss happened so gradually, Carol didn't even realize that she had been living in a quiet world. It wasn't until she had her hearing treated that her world of sound was given back to her, allowing her to enjoy all the outdoor activities she enjoys—motorcycle riding included.

## A Quiet World

Carol Whirley was unaware that she was developing a hearing loss 10 years ago while working as a school teacher. She remembers thinking that her students were talking softly or that she was hearing a lot of background noise, but the problem was not apparent to her.

When a friend's father who wore hearing aids passed away, Carol asked her friend if she could try on the hearing aids. Once she put them on and heard new sounds, she realized how much she was truly missing. Carol took those hearing aids to the audiologist, where she received a hearing test. Her hearing loss was confirmed, so she had the hearing aids molded to her ears. At first she was only wearing one, but then gradually began to use both.

It was at that time that she learned that her hearing loss was genetic. Her mother has had a hearing loss for years and always used to yell because she couldn't hear.

## Uncomfortable Hearing Aids

Although Carol wore those hearing aids for seven years, she says that they were too big behind her ears and rubbed up against them, making them very uncomfortable. She continued to wear them because they allowed her to hear, but she was hoping to find another solution that would be more comfortable.

Carol was also unsatisfied with the sound quality. She recalls that she was constantly turning the volume up and had a hard time hearing people talk in group settings.

When Carol got married last year, she began using her husband's insurance. She was happy to discover that the insurance plan had partial coverage for hearing aids, allowing her to explore other options.

Given her experience with the old hearing aids, Carol decided that no matter the cost, she wanted comfortable hearing aids that she could wear every waking hour.

## Decibels

A Lesson in Hearing Awareness

**SIEMENS**

## An Active Lifestyle

Carol's audiologist recommended Siemens Pure® 500 hearing aids to fit her comfort and lifestyle requirements. She has a very active lifestyle that includes riding a motorcycle, fishing, canoeing, rock climbing, kayaking, gardening and tennis.

One of the features that Carol appreciates the most about Pure is the fact that they stay put all day long. She was surprised to discover that she could even wear them underneath her motorcycle helmet!

Most importantly, Carol is amazed at how comfortable the Pure hearing aids are.

"They don't even feel like they're in my ears. I have to put my hand to my ear to make sure they are there," Carol remarks.

## Pure and Crisp Sound

In addition, Carol is pleased with the "superb" hearing quality, she says. She hadn't realized how much she was missing even while wearing her old hearing aids.

"I can hear my hands rubbing against corduroy, the sound of raindrops, rustling of the trees," Carol says. "I'm so happy my world has been given back to me."

When she first began wearing Pure hearing aids, she thought that something was wrong with her car stereo because the sound was so different than what she heard before. Carol had been considering selling the car, but after discovering how pure and crisp the stereo sounded, she decided to keep it!

Carol loves her new hearing aids and can't imagine life without them. She doesn't want to miss anything and makes sure she doesn't leave home without them on.

Carol has also enhanced her Pure hearing aids by using the Siemens Tek® wireless system, which allows her to connect her hearing aids wirelessly to audio devices, like TVs and cell phones. Tek communicates with her hearing aids by transmitting stereo audio signals using *Bluetooth*® wireless technology.

## Proud to Wear Hearing Aids

When she's not riding her motorcycle or enjoying other outdoor activities, Carol volunteers at a senior living home. Many of the residents with hearing loss wear hearing aids, but some of them always have an excuse for why they don't wear them, she says. Carol's mother also has a hearing loss, but like some of the residents at the senior living home, she does not like hearing aids.

Carol says her experience with Siemens Pure has been so positive, that she can't understand why anyone would go without them.

"I am at the age that I don't have an excuse because I want them all the time," she says. "I'm proud of wearing hearing aids."

The *Bluetooth*® word mark and logos are owned by the Bluetooth SIG, Inc., and any use of such marks by Siemens AG is under license. Other trademarks and trade names are those of their respective owners.

Decibels

A Lesson in Hearing Awareness

**SIEMENS**