

My Story...



Becky Crawford's Story

A loud roar! Then a whistle! Then nothing! What is this? The change of my life, my hearing was gone. This was something I never thought about prior to that morning. Yes, I had a decrease in my hearing earlier when I ended up with a stapedectomy in both ears but I still had some hearing.

[Stapedectomy is a surgical procedure in which the innermost bone ([stapes](#)) of the middle ear is removed, and replaced with a small plastic tube surrounding a short length of stainless steel wire (a prosthesis).]

I went to my doctor, still in a state of shock, to have him give me three choices. One was to do nothing! I didn't like that one as too much was going on around me that I didn't know what it was. Guess I was too nosy to let it go.

Second choice was to have surgery but it had no promise of being any better. Why go through that?

Third was to get hearing aids. Except for the cost, it was the best choice my doctor gave me. I felt confident in his recommendation. He suggested I get them, put them in and leave them in during the day. He said, "Do not take them out. You'll get adjusted more quickly." Following his advice, I have had a wonderful adjustment to my hearing aids and the condition of severe hearing loss.

Not knowing what to expect, I felt lost as to where to turn. I did not know very many people with hearing aids or what to expect with them. However, I met a neighbor who had hearing aids and was a member of the Hearing Loss Association of America Kentuckiana Chapter. He picked me up and with two other members took me to my first meeting. This has been the beginning of a new life.

Since early 2006, I started on a journey of learning, encouragement, and friendship. HLAA has offered me much information through their programs, materials, and individual friendships. I don't have to feel bad to ask to have things repeated. I have the support of friends and respect from fellow members. The support given to others with similar problems and questions all come from helping each other with individual needs.

Reaching out to people with hearing problems has been my goal since finding HLAA. In 2009 we started the Hearing Loss Association of America Kentucky Home Chapter in Bardstown, KY for people who could not travel to Louisville. We continue to search for people who need help with their loss of hearing problems.

I have been appointed as a Commissioner to the Kentucky Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing by AARP. This appointment has increased my knowledge of hearing loss and helped to reach out to the thousands of people with a hearing loss in the state of KY.

Serving as the Chair of the Telecommunication Program (TAP) has awakened me to the products available to individuals who qualify and I encourage people to apply for these free assistive devices.

Support, encouragement, and knowledge have all been the gifts I have received from HLAA. After all, our main purpose is to support the hard of hearing and accept each individual for who they are.

Becky Crawford
Board Member
HLAA KY Home