

Wayne, volunteer

I had a terrible, terrible time understanding my granddaughter. I could hear her talking, but her little young voice, it was hard for me to understand what she was saying. So we went over to Chapel Hill and they did the testing. And they said I was a definite candidate for cochlear implant, and wanted to know if I wanted to be part of a study, and I said, sure.

Being a part of the study lets me contribute to someone else in need. I've just thought of what it's done for me in being able to hear. Things I wouldn't be able to do today if I hadn't had this implant. It would keep you from doing things because you couldn't hear and you couldn't participate. One of my ambitions of doing this was to be able to understand my granddaughter, understand what she was saying. And today, we can do that. We're very tight, we're buddies. I can talk to her, I can hear her, and I can understand her, because of the implant.

That test is still not FDA approved today, but I feel sure with the work that's going on at Chapel Hill, it soon will be. I try to be there when they need me, because of what they are doing and what it might do for someone else. By being a part of the study, I feel like I'm contributing to something in life for somebody else.