



# Young Man with Congenital Deafness Gives Hearing Aids another Shot

Since discovering Siemen's Nitro BTE, Charlie Chandler can clearly express what he wants, have a conversation without signing, and finally get more out of life.

[usa.siemens.com/hearstories](http://usa.siemens.com/hearstories)

For 23-year-old Charlie Chandler games like Minecraft and Grand Theft Auto V are a way to bond with his brother, Christopher, who lives in another state. But sharing their mutual interest in video games has not always been so easy.

Charlie was born with severe hearing loss. Growing up, his family relied on actions to show him what they wanted, or they would sign. He wore hearing aids in the past, but they were uncomfortable, ineffective, and broke easily. Frustrated, Charlie relied on signing, making participation in cooperative video games impossible.

"Charlie is a very outgoing person," said his mother, Sylvia. "But without hearing aids he interacted primarily with other people who were hearing impaired. I could only talk to him through the video relay service, never on the phone."

Charlie had trouble pronouncing some words because he was unable to hear different sounds. Everyday interactions with people outside his family were problematic.

"People made fun of me," said Charlie. "They couldn't understand me. I needed to hear to make that better."

Sylvia has been in the hearing industry since 2007, so she had a great deal of exposure to new hearing aids. She convinced Charlie to try Siemen's Nitro<sup>®</sup> behind-the-ear (BTE) hearing aids and the results have been nothing short of amazing.

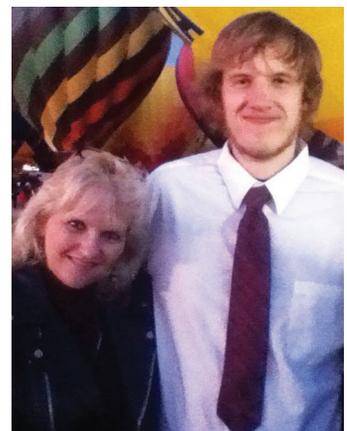
Nitro BTE is designed specifically for people with severe to profound hearing loss. They provide the necessary amplification and speech intelligibility Charlie needs to get the most out of life.

Charlie also uses the miniTek<sup>®</sup> Bluetooth<sup>®</sup> remote and streamer, which allows him to wirelessly connect phones, TVs, and his gaming system to his hearing aids.

"I've never been able to talk on the phone," said Charlie. "Now I play Minecraft with Christopher over the Internet and we actually talk to each other." Last month, he won a worldwide Grand Theft Auto tournament for the hearing impaired.

Prior to getting Nitro hearing aids, Charlie played football for a school for the deaf. Now he plays football and basketball with hearing and non-hearing friends.

"I had a hard time playing football before because I'd have to sign," said Charlie. "Now I just play."



"I can finally really talk to my son," exclaimed Sylvia. "The communication between us is on a totally different level."

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Technology

Life sounds brilliant.