



## Sounds of the City

**Mother:** I'm Marcia Lovell. My daughter is Malia Wilson. And we are from Guyana, South America. From age one going to two, that's when she lost her hearing completely. Everything stopped. Guyana do have an audiology department, just a very small one. They do hearing tests but that is as much as they do. And hearing aids. Nothing of implants, or anything of the sort. When I left that hospital I was like...I was like...devastated... like...what am I going to do next? I decided I'm going to come to New York. When I go to the doctor's visit, he's like: "It's up to you, but she needs to get cochlear implants because the hearing aids are not working for her."

**Audiologist:** *OK. Ready Malia?*

**[sound]** *Bop-bop-bop-bop-bop!*

*Excellent!*

**Mother:** Being in New York is a new environment.

Most of the time when we're outdoors there is like you know, a teaching moment.

*Where did the plane go?*

**Malia:** *Up.*

**Mother:** *In the clouds.*

*There's the train. Hi train! Hi train! Hi train! Hi!*

Whenever we're outdoors, it's like a learning experience for her.

During my visits to the doctor, she can get the required medical treatment.

**Doctor:** *Hi! How are you? How are you, how have you been?*

**Mother:** *I'm OK.*

**Doctor:** *Good, good. Hi sweetheart, how have you been? So, how's she doing?*

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*Good. Good. Good.*

*She hasn't had any pain or anything around the sites?*

**Mother:** *No.*

**Doctor:** *I'm going to look in your ear, sweetie, OK?*

She had never had any hearing, okay, probably at no point. So she had no language whatsoever. But when she would watch us speaking she would be mouthing, she would try to move her mouth. It was a sign that she wanted to communicate. And the last thing in the puzzle that she needed was to have hearing. And now that she has it, that process will go forward.

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