



## Laura Strasser & Columbia Hearing Centers bring hearing aid services to Lincoln County



Hearing is such a vital part of our lives. It helps us build and maintain relationships. It keeps us connected.

“But for those experiencing hearing loss, their world starts to shrink,” says Laura Strasser, a hearing instrument specialist with Columbia Hearing Centers. “When you can’t hear what’s going on around you, you become disconnected from the people and things you enjoy. Many people quit going out. They become lonely and depressed. It doesn’t have to be that way.”

Especially not in Lincoln County.

Laura and Columbia Hearing Centers have brought their full-service hearing clinics to both Davenport and Wilbur. Laura is seeing patients in Davenport on Wednesdays, and is at the Wilbur Clinic on Thursdays.

As for their services, first on the list is a free hearing screen. “This is so important. It gives us a baseline to be able to refer to over the years to judge hearing loss.”

As hearing degenerates so gradually, many people don’t realize they have a problem. “Sounds just disappear and most folks don’t realize that sound isn’t there anymore.”

With highly sensitive diagnostic tools and loads of computer software, Laura is able to pinpoint those missing sounds or tones and offer her patients high tech solutions to keep their world intact.

“Hearing aids are amazing. They’re mini computers,” grins Laura. “Not only are they smaller and more comfortable than ever before, but they’re easier to maintain. I can literally hook a hearing aid up to my computer and assess how well it’s working with my software.”

And keeping up with breakthroughs in technology is also part of the service. “Hearing aids are constantly getting better. If you bring in your current hearing device, I can assess it and see if there’s upgraded technology to help you hear more clearly.”

Although Laura says her clientele is mostly in the over 50 set, she stresses that a hearing check as early as mid-20’s and early 30’s is a good idea. “Especially if you use headphones to listen to music, are around loud noise at work or are in a band,” she says, noting her 19 year-old-son has already shown signs of hearing damage. “He’s a drummer.”

And our high tech lifestyles are also a detriment to our hearing. “Personal CD players, cell phones, engines, vacuum cleaners, guns, video games, weed whackers, tractors — with all this exposure to noise, our hearing is eroding faster than ever,” says Laura.

“The ability to hear speech is so very important to our lives — physically and emotionally. We want to help our clients preserve their hearing as long as possible.”

For appointments, call toll free 1-866-369-1020.