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The Starkey Hearing Foundation Brings the Gift of Hearing to More Than 1,000 Palestinians

Starkey's Barry Freeman Participates in Israel-Palestine Hearing Mission of Peace

MINNEAPOLIS, June 6, 2011 – **Starkey Laboratories, Inc.**, one of the world's leading hearing technology companies, is proud to announce that the **Starkey Hearing Foundation** and its Israeli partners fit more than 1,000 Palestinian children and adults with hearing devices as part of the Israel-Palestine Hearing Mission of Peace. The mission was held May 24-26 at the Khaled ben Said school in Tulkarem, Palestine. The goal of the three-day effort was to promote greater communication and understanding among the local communities through improved hearing.

Barry Freeman, Ph.D., Senior Director of Audiology for Starkey, was among the audiologists from all three countries that worked together to fit each of the recipients who ranged in age from four to 75, and hailed from as far as Hebrong in the South, to Jenin in the North.

"The partnership between the Starkey Hearing Foundation, its Israeli partners, and the Palestinian people made this mission not only a success, but also a collaboration unlike any other I've ever experienced," said Freeman.

In order to execute this mission, the Starkey Hearing Foundation partnered with the Chaim Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in Israel, the American Friends of Sheba Medical Center in New York, and Physicians for Human Rights-Israel.

About Starkey®

Starkey Laboratories, Inc. is a privately held, global hearing technology company headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minn. The company is recognized for its innovative design, development and distribution of comprehensive digital hearing systems. Founded in 1967, Starkey currently employs more than 3,500 people, operates 22 facilities and conducts business in more than 100 markets worldwide. For more information, visit StarkeyPro.com.

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About Starkey Hearing Foundation

The Starkey Hearing Foundation is striving to change the social consciousness of hearing and hearing loss prevention. Hearing loss affects one in 10 Americans, and 63 million children worldwide, yet many do not have access to the hearing devices that can help correct that disability. The Foundation now delivers more than 100,000 hearing aids through hearing missions in countries stretching from the U.S. to Vietnam. Since 2000, the Foundation has supplied more than 500,000 hearing aids to people in need and is striving to achieve its goal of distributing over one million free hearing aids in this decade. In addition to giving the gift of hearing, the Foundation partners with Best Buy and the GRAMMY Foundation to promote 'safe hearing' through its SoundMatters program and recently launched a campaign aimed at preventing hearing loss among teens and young people called Listen Carefully. For more information on the Starkey Hearing Foundation, visit www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org.

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