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STARS FROM THE GRIDIRON TEAM WITH STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION DURING SUPER BOWL WEEK TO BRING GIFT OF HEARING TO INDIANAPOLIS

Colts, Cardinals and Notre Dame Players Join Foundation for 3rd Annual Hearing Mission

Eden Prairie, MN (Jan. 24, 2012) – With the help of a star-studded line up of football and entertainment legends, **Starkey Hearing Foundation**, which strives to change the social consciousness of hearing and hearing health care, announced that it will deliver the gift of hearing to Indianapolis on February 3, 2012 during its 3rd Annual Super Bowl Week Hearing Mission. The event, which will help 235 under-served, hearing-impaired children and adults, will be held at SportZone in Indianapolis, IN from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (note: a pre-mission press briefing with celebrity guests in attendance is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.)

In what has become an annual tradition for Starkey, the Super Bowl Hearing Mission is receiving help from long-time Foundation friends **Heather Whitestone (first deaf Miss America title holder)**, **Larry Fitzgerald Jr. (Arizona Cardinals)**, **Dwight Freeney (Indianapolis Colts)**, **Dallas Clark (Indianapolis Colts)**, and **Michael Floyd (Notre Dame Fighting Irish)**. This “super” team of celebrity volunteers will be joining Bill Austin, Founder of Starkey Hearing Foundation, and his team of experts in fitting local children with state-of-the-art hearing aids, which is part of the Foundation’s mission *so the world may hear*.

“By providing children with the ability to hear, we help open up the world to them, that they may smile, laugh, and enjoy a life previously unavailable to them due to a hearing loss disability,” says Austin. According to Starkey Hearing Foundation, an estimated 63 million children worldwide suffer from hearing loss. In the U.S., 34 million Americans, or one in 10, live with hearing loss or a hearing disability.

The Starkey Hearing Foundation’s Super Bowl Hearing Mission is one of dozens of missions conducted each year both domestically and internationally. The Super Bowl week mission will include the precise fitting of custom-made, state-of-the-art hearing aids for each recipient, along with testing, batteries, counseling and instructions on follow-up care.

About Starkey Hearing Foundation

Starkey Hearing Foundation is striving to foster greater understanding among individuals and communities through hearing care by focusing on awareness, education, protection and treatment so the world may hear. 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 them. From 2000 to 2010, Starkey Hearing Foundation fit more than 500,000 hearing aids to people in need in the U.S. and around the world. The Foundation has grown that commitment to more than 100,000 hearing aids annually and is dedicated to fitting 1 million hearing aids this decade. In addition to giving the gift of hearing through worldwide hearing missions, Starkey Hearing Foundation promotes hearing health awareness through the Listen Carefully initiative and provides hearing instruments to low-income Americans through the Hear Now program. For more information on Starkey Hearing Foundation, visit www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org.

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