

**Starkey Hearing Foundation Joins Forces With  
“Extreme Makeover: Home Edition”  
To Deliver the Gift of Hearing to Oregon Students**

*Eden Prairie, MN* (September 6, 2010) – Working with ABC’s “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” the Starkey Hearing foundation is providing the free gift of hearing to over 200 students and family members from the Oregon School for the Deaf in Salem. Students and faculty members will be visiting the Twin Cities this week, as special guests of the Starkey Hearing Foundation.



“We always go where we can help and this project seemed perfect,” said Bill Austin, CEO and Founder of the Starkey Hearing Foundation. “These are really great kids and we knew we could improve hearing for most of them.” As a former resident of Oregon, the project became exceptionally important to Austin and his Foundation.

Since 2000, the Starkey Hearing Foundation has distributed nearly 500,000 hearing aids throughout 86 countries and has set a goal of more than 100,000 a year and more than one million in this decade. The Starkey Hearing Foundation is the global leader in hearing healthcare focused on awareness, education, prevention and treatment.

In tradition with the “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” production, the benefactors are sent on a vacation while local developers and volunteers complete the building project. “It made sense to bring the students to Minnesota where we could address hearing issues with maximum resources at our disposal. In addition, we have created a fun and exciting adventure for them in the Twin Cities,” says Austin. The students will be visiting a number of local attractions throughout the Minneapolis/St. Paul area prior to returning back to Salem Oregon.

Patti Tagioka, Director of the Oregon School for the Deaf shared, “The Starkey Foundation is a truly amazing group of caring, committed people headed by Bill Austin. The students, alumni, staff and the Oregon Deaf Community are blessed by their generosity and cannot adequately express our deep gratitude.”

“We have become quite familiar with the amazing mission work of the Starkey Hearing Foundation,” said Brady Connell, Executive Producer, “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.” “Their generous contributions to this project have made it uniquely special for everyone involved.”

The Emmy award winning reality program “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition,” now entering its 8<sup>th</sup> season, is produced by Endemol USA, a division of Endemol Holding. Its executive producers Brady Connell and George Verschoor. David Goldberg is Chairman, Endemol North America. The show airs Sundays from 8:00-9:00 p.m., ET on ABC.

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