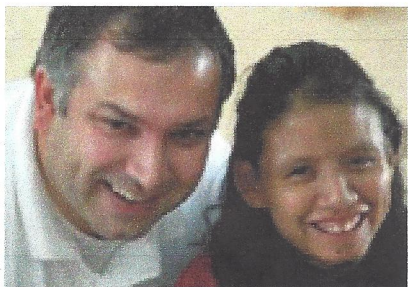


SHA practices sponsor mission to Mexico

Beaulieu: 'It's one thing I would repeat in my life. It's like finding your first love again.'

Four Starkey Hearing Alliance (SHA) members in the Northwestern United States recently contributed \$50,000 to sponsor a mission to three cities in Mexico, during which they fitted 787 hearing-impaired people with free hearing instruments from the Starkey Hearing Foundation (SHF). Their mission resulted from conversations held during the Foundation's 2004 annual Gala celebration, which raised \$2.7 million.

Mission contributors included Pat Beaulieu (Beaulieu Hearing Center, North Bend, Oregon), Robert Keesee (Mountain View Hearing Aid Center, Olympia, Washington), Jim Leagjeld (Leagjeld Hearing Aid Center, Bend, Oregon) and Rob and Julie Siebers (Tillamook Hearing Aid Center, Tillamook, Oregon).



Robert Keesee takes a moment for a photo with a young Mexican girl who received hearing aids from the Foundation.

More than a dozen Starkey professionals visited San Luis Potosi, where they performed 142 fittings, Monterrey, where they performed 375 fittings and Matamoros, where they performed another 270 fittings.

Led by SHF founder and Starkey CEO Bill Austin and his wife, SHF Secretary/Treasurer Tani



Pat Beaulieu from North Bend, Oregon considered the Mexico Mission a life changing experience.

Austin, the professionals described the experience as "extraordinary" and brought back heartwarming stories of their work with Mexicans in need.

"We had some cases where a mother and child both received hearing aids and heard each other for the first time ever," said Jeff Longtain, Starkey Managing Director for the Northwest region. "One young boy received his hearing aids on his tenth birthday," said Longtain. "He was all dressed up in his best white suit for the event." Professionals were caught up in similar special moments and found it difficult to express their emotions. Many of them wept with joy along with recipients of hearing aids.

Hearing aid recipients traveled to the three cities from all over their parts of Mexico. Dressed in their finest clothes, they waited in line for hours to receive their hearing aids.

Pat Beaulieu summed it up when she said, "It's one thing I would repeat in my life. It's like finding your first love again. Seeing Bill and Tani do this made me realize what they are really about. They are committed to helping the world hear."