

Local residents spearhead Starkey hearing missions

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

There's nothing like seeing a child's face light up when they hear a voice for the first time.

That expression is something Jason Toone and Crystal Rosa of Georgetown have come to recognize well during their hearing mission trips with the Starkey Hearing Foundation to provide hearing aids to children and adults in need.

Toone is the managing director of Starkey Canada and Rosa is the director of customer relations. Since 1973, Starkey Hearing Foundation, has been giving the gift of hearing to the world's underprivileged— especially children. The Foundation's goal is to promote hearing health awareness and education, provide hearing instruments and personal listening devices to people in need and to support and conduct research and education.

Toone said during the missions the people are fitted with the hearing instruments and also receive training on hearing instrument care, maintenance and supply of batteries.

Last year Toone and Rosa went on an eight-day hearing mission trip to Mombasa, Kismu and Nairobi, Kenya and fitted more than 3,000 adults and children with hearing aids.

Toone said people come from hundreds of miles away to get the hearing aids.

"The word goes out that we're going to be there and they come from everywhere," he said.

In May they will be heading to China for a similar mission, planning to fit 6,000 people with hearing aids.

Toone said its "incredibly fulfilling" to be part of the hearing mission trips and to do so much good in such a short period of time.

"I feel honoured to have the opportunity to bring the gift of hearing to so many in need and proud to support the Starkey Hearing Foundation in its mission," said Toone.

He and Rosa have taken part in several trips to places such as El Salvador twice, Egypt, Turkey, Panama, Kingston, Jamaica, Guatemala and Mexico.

The Canadian Hearing Mission Team



Georgetown residents Crystal Rosa (above right) and Jason Toone (below right) pose with a couple children in Kenya following a recent Starkey Hearing Foundation trip to the African nation in which the charitable group outfitted more than 3,000 adults and kids with hearing aids. The local pair are directors with Starkey and will be going to China next month to outfit 6,000 people with hearing aids.

Submitted photos



has successfully fit more than 11,000 children and adults on those trips, bringing the gift of hearing to those who would otherwise go without.

Hearing mission trips are paid for by donations to the Starkey Hearing Foundation. Every year at the Foundation's annual "So the World May Hear" Awards Gala attendees have an opportunity to bid during a live auction to fund a hearing mission trip.

To learn more about the Starkey Hearing Foundation visit www.starkey-hearingfoundation.org/

Busy as a bee

Residents living along the north-south Hydro One corridor in the Fourth and Fifth Lines area of Halton Hills have been watching the progress of the installation of new lines in recent weeks. Here, a helicopter hovers like some gigantic honey bee, flitting from one tower to the next, as it strings the lines on the tower pullies.



Photo by Ted Brown

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