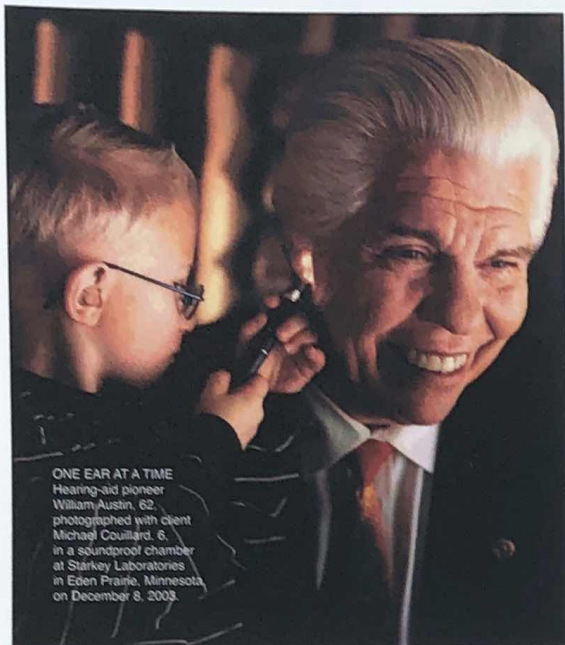


A Father's Day Tribute



ONE EAR AT A TIME
Hearing-aid pioneer
William Austin, 62,
photographed with client
Michael Couillard, 6,
in a soundproof chamber
at Starkey Laboratories
in Eden Prairie, Minnesota,
on December 8, 2003.

"We've grown our technology so we can serve people better ...and we've grown the reach of our Foundation to express our art through the gift of hearing."

—William Austin

No words could be more true. William Austin's life-long dream has always been to bring 'sound' into the lives of the hearing-impaired throughout the world. And, to achieve this goal, Austin and his team of hearing experts burn the midnight oil making more than 150 missions a year into remote areas in South Africa, Mexico and throughout the world.

Austin along with his team of hearing experts use their hands-on expertise to fit thousands of needy children with hearing devices that literally over night change their lives. Since the year 2000, Starkey Hearing Foundation has donated more than 120,000 hearing devices, in 80 countries.

"Hearing is the umbilical cord to the world," states Austin. "The ear is the roadway to the heart."

Austin sits at the helm

of Starkey Laboratories, headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, a \$400 million a year global hearing empire that is recognized as the most sophisticated and up-to-the-minute technological source and support for custom hearing instruments since it was founded by Austin back in 1967.

From the dirt roads in underdeveloped countries to the glitz and glamour of Hollywood and onto the White House, common folk, celebrities and dignitaries—all turn to the expertise of Austin and Starkey Laboratories with its 3,500 employees and 42 facilities in 26 countries throughout North America, Central America, Europe, Asia and Australia to oversee their hearing needs.



Elton John, Sharon Osbourne, Bill and Tani at the SO THE WORLD MAY HEAR gala, 2004

Over the years, Austin has fitted five of the last six U.S. Presidents including Ronald Reagan and Austin's celebrity clients are among

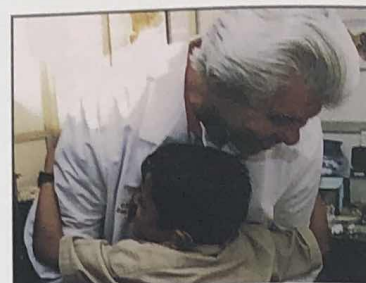
William Austin Founder of the Starkey Hearing Foundation brings the gift of sound to the ears of thousands of hearing-impaired children around the world.

the *Who's Who* of business moguls, sports greats and music legends the likes of Paul Newman, Kirk Douglas, Les Paul, Englebert Humperdinck, Lou Ferrigno, Ernest Borgnine, Karl Malden, golf great Arnold Palmer, racing icons Al Unser and Richard Petty and actor/activist Marlee Matlin among numerous others.

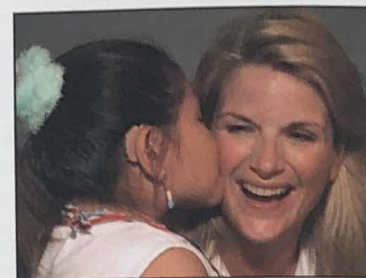
"People who can hear don't understand the devastation that people who can't hear experience," states Austin. "Without sound, people become disconnected from other people and eventually from the world. At Starkey Laboratories, we can help almost everyone."

For his unparalleled generosity, Austin has been recognized with numerous awards to humanity and his overwhelming commitment to providing service to those in need. Some prestigious honors have included the *National Caring Institute Award* in 2003, when Austin was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Caring Museum, in Washington, D.C., whose

past honorees were Mother Theresa, former President Jimmy Carter and newsman Hugh Downs. Most recently in March 2005, Austin received a star on the Walk of Fame, on Palm Canyon Drive, in Palm Springs, California. There his name was added to a distinguished list of more than 249 stars, including Frank Sinatra, Sonny Bono and Sophia Loren—all who have lived in the Palm Springs area and contributed to the community in pursuit of helping humanity.



Bill with a grateful hearing impaired child.



Trisha Yearwood with a happy hearing aid recipient.



Bill with a recently outfitted boy.



Hearing is especially important when you can't see.