

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: THE BAYAT FOUNDATION, THE STARKEY HEARING FOUNDATION, VOLUNTEERS FROM AFGHAN WIRELESS AND THE BAYAT GROUP PROVIDE HEARING AND HOPE TO ALMOST 1,000 AFGHANS

August 28th-August 29th Hearing Care Mission In Afghanistan Fulfills Objective of Providing Afghans From Kabul and Throughout The Country With Vital Hearing Restoration and Hearing Care Services

Kabul, Afghanistan?September 6, 2016?Fulfilling their pledge to enrich the lives of the Afghan people with the three precious gifts of Hearing, Healing and Hope, **The Bayat Foundation** (www.bayatfoundation.org), Afghanistan's largest, private, non-profit Health, Education and Social Development Organization, and **The Starkey Hearing Foundation** (www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org), announced the successful conclusion of their third annual joint Bayat-Starkey Afghanistan Hearing Care Mission.

The Bayat-Starkey Hearing Care Mission, held in Kabul from August 28th and August 29th, provided free auditory and hearing restoration care to approximately 1,000 Afghan citizens, who hailed from every region of the country.

Each Bayat-Starkey Hearing Care Team was composed of an international assembly of professional Audiologists who donated their services, working with The Starkey Hearing Foundation's renown team of hearing care specialists, as well as scores of highly trained and dedicated volunteers from The Bayat Foundation and all divisions of The Bayat Group of Companies, including Afghan Wireless and the Ariana Television Network.

Dr. Ehsanollah Bayat and **Mrs. Fatema Bayat** spearheaded The Bayat Group and The Bayat Foundation's efforts for the Bayat-Starkey Hearing Care Mission, illustrating their profound and personal commitment to the success of the mission, and their determination to improve the lives of their fellow Afghans. During the mission's two-day period, the Bayat-Starkey Hearing Care Teams worked intensively, from morning until dusk.

The Bayat-Starkey Hearing Care Teams utilized a meticulous intake process, which helped prepare each patient to receive the most appropriate and effective type of hearing care. The intake process included recording vital statistics of each patient, conducting a thorough examination of the ears and auditory system, and also, cleaning the ear and auditory system. After cleaning the ears and auditory system, each patient was fitted with a set of ear molds?clear, wear-resistant plastic discs used to house the hearing aids that were provided without cost to each patient.

After completing intake, volunteers escorted each patient into the treatment area, where the Bayat-Starkey hearing care team, together with specially trained volunteers, fit each patient with the hearing devices that empowered each patient?many for the first time in their lives?to use the precious, powerful gift of hearing, sound and their voices to connect with their families, their communities and the world.

?In two days, on August 28th, and August 29th, our Bayat-Starkey Teams helped restore the hearing of almost 1,000 Afghans?and since 2014, The Bayat Foundation, working together with our amazing partner, The Starkey Hearing Foundation, have provided the gift of hearing to more than 3,000 Afghans,? said Dr. Ehsanollah Bayat, the Co-Chair of The Bayat Foundation. ?I know that The Bayat Foundation and The Starkey Hearing Foundation will continue to work together here in Afghanistan, striving to bring the gifts of healing, health and hope to our nation.?

?All of us at The Bayat Foundation and The Starkey Hearing Foundation, have been moved and inspired by this opportunity to help thousands of Afghans hear, many for the very first time in their lives,? said Mrs. Fatema Bayat, the Co-Chair of The Bayat Foundation. ?In 2017, we hope to provide hearing care to even more Afghans, and I know that together, The Bayat Foundation and The Starkey Hearing Foundation will keep moving forward, until we reach that moment where every person in Afghanistan affected by hearing loss is healed from it, and every Afghan has an opportunity to live a long, prosperous and healthy life.?

About the Bayat Foundation:

Since 2005, the US-based Bayat Foundation, a 501 c (3) charitable organization, has promoted the well-being of the Afghan people. Founded and directed by Ehsanollah Bayat and Fatema Bayat, the Foundation has contributed to more than 300 projects dedicated to improving the quality of life for the youth, women, poor, and elderly of Afghanistan; including construction of 13 maternity hospitals that have now treated over 1,500,000 mothers and babies. Projects have included the construction of new facilities and sustainable infrastructure in needy regions, and the promotion of health, education, economic, and cultural programs. In addition to his charitable initiatives, Ehsanollah Bayat founded Afghan Wireless (AWCC) in 2002, which was the first GSM wireless and Internet Service Provider in Afghanistan, and later established Ariana Radio and Television Network (ATN), which includes Ariana Radio (FM 93.5). For more information, please email info@bayatfoundation.org.

About Starkey Hearing Foundation:

Starkey Hearing Foundation uses hearing as a vehicle to reflect caring and change lives around the world. Disabling hearing loss affects more than 360 million people, including 32 million children, worldwide, yet many do not have access to the hearing devices that can help them. Starkey Hearing Foundation fits and gives more than 100,000 hearing aids annually, and as a member of President Clinton's Global Initiative, it has pledged to fit one million hearing aids this decade. In addition to giving the gift of hearing through worldwide hearing missions, Starkey Hearing Foundation promotes hearing health awareness and education through the Listen Carefully campaign and provides hearing instruments to low-income Americans through the Hear Now program. For more information on Starkey Hearing Foundation, visit www.starkeyhearingfoundation.org.