

May 21, 2015 For Immediate Release

## 29 Wishes Come True

### *Better Hearing Center of Austin Helps 26 Austinites Hear Better & Grants the Wishes of 3 Local Kids*

26 Austinites with wishes to hear better had their dreams come true during a unique fundraiser by the Better Hearing Center of Austin during March and April, 2015. Saleem Assaf, the main clinician and owner of Better Hearing, provided an inventory of hearing aids for sale at 75% to 85% off. All the proceeds from the sale were collected for Make-A-Wish® Central & South Texas. A total of \$28,000 was raised. Better Hearing provided an additional \$2,000 direct donation to increase the fundraising total to \$30,000. The check was presented to Make-A-Wish on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.



Saleem Assaf from the Better Hearing Center presents Kathryn Draper at Make-A-Wish a \$30,000 donation.

Make-A-Wish® grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Through their \$30,000 donation, the Better Hearing Center will grant the wishes of three children with diagnosed life-threatening medical conditions in central and south Texas. The three children are:



- Christian, a 9 year old boy from Austin who has wished to meet Marshawn Lynch and the Seattle Seahawks.
- Anna, a 7 year old from San Antonio who has wished to go to Disney World.
- Ryan, a 15 year old from Seguin who has wished to go to Hawaii.

Read the testimonials from Austinites who benefitted from this unique fundraiser:

Two of the newly fitted hearing aid patients have high praise for being able to hear better again. Lorna says, "I could hear, but I could not understand what people were saying. I felt left out and embarrassed when I asked people to repeat things, and trying to read lips just wouldn't work! With my hearing aids I am surprised how close to normal hearing I now have. It's fantastic. I feel freed and included." And Phillip mentioned, "I was concerned that the hearing aids would be really obvious and have maintenance problems, but they have been hardly noticeable and they require very minimal maintenance. Most people say they are not even aware I am wearing them. It's amazing how many years I went not knowing just how much I was missing. Hearing so well again is phenomenal."

The hearing aids for the fundraiser were donated to the Better Hearing Center from patients who purchased new hearing aids or were donated by family members of patients. The hearing aid manufacturer refurbished the hearing aids and provided them with a service warranty. Rayovac provided a year's worth of batteries to each patient as well. The Better Hearing Center provided their services at no charge – ear cleaning, hearing tests, and hearing aid trials. All follow up office visits and in-office care for the patients will be provided at no charge by the Better Hearing Center. Patients were seen at both of Better Hearing's Austin locations – South on William Cannon near Westgate and North on Spicewood Springs near MoPac. After the hearing aids were initially fit, each patient returned for a series of follow-up appointments for fine tuning and adjustments to ensure the hearing aids were comfortable, manageable, and improved their hearing. For more information, contact the Better Hearing Center at 512-282-4327.

### **About The Better Hearing Center**

The Better Hearing Center also purchases hearing aids for students at the Texas School for the Deaf. Some of their other community service includes providing onsite care and ear cleaning at the Salvation Army and Safe Place. Saleem Assaf also travels outside the U.S. to a different location for a week each summer. During these international trips, he cleans ears and trains local health care workers to inspect and clean ears. In Haiti last June, Saleem saw over 800 school children affiliated with the Salvation Army and cleaned the ears for 150 of them. This June, Saleem will travel to Havana, Cuba and provide ear cleaning and training services to the Salvation Army's schools and Senior Center. More information is available from the Better Hearing Center at 512-282-4327 or online at [www.betterhearingofaustin.com](http://www.betterhearingofaustin.com).



### **About Make-A-Wish® Central & South Texas**

Make-A-Wish grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. According to a 2011 U.S. study of wish impact, most health professionals surveyed believe a wish-come-true can have positive impacts on the health of children. Kids say wishes give them renewed strength to fight their illness, and their parents say these experiences help strengthen the entire family. With the help of generous donors and more than 250 volunteers, Make-A-Wish Central & South Texas has granted more than 4,000 wishes to children in 40 counties since 1984. During the last year, volunteers and donors made it possible for 233 kids to experience the magic of a wish.

A child with a qualifying life-threatening medical condition can refer him/herself or be referred by a medical professional, parent or guardian by calling 1-800-880-9474 or visiting [cstx.wish.org](http://cstx.wish.org). Please help spread the word about our wish-granting work. A wish experience can truly change a child's life... and so can you. For more information about Make-A-Wish, visit [www.cstx.wish.org](http://www.cstx.wish.org).