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Invitation to

Bringing the Miracle of Hearing to Poor Chinese Children

by

J.B. Robillard
President, Robillard Hearing Aid Centres

April 10, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Library and Archives Canada, Room 156
395 Wellington Street, Ottawa

Refreshments and conversation following the presentation

Everyone is welcome.*

This talk is about the experience of JB Robillard and the other members of the Canadian team that travelled to China for nearly three weeks in August of 2012, as part of a 22 member Starkey Hearing Foundation mission. In that brief period the mission delivered and fitted more than 11,000 hearing aids to people in need in Beijing, Hong Kong, Xian, and Chengdu.

This was Starkey's first mission to China and it was organised as a true partnership with the Chinese and local governments in what was the first sanctioned charitable mission in China, recognized by the People's Republic of China. The Chinese were very appreciative and named Bill Austin, the founder of the Starkey Hearing Foundation, as a Goodwill Ambassador to Chengdu. He was also given the passport to the South Gate of Xi'an (an honour last given to President Bill Clinton in 1996).

Restoring hearing to the deaf, especially children, is guaranteed to bring joy and excitement to anyone. In China it can have more profound implications. The act of correctly fitting hearing aids to poor children has life transforming consequences. Large numbers of poor children in China suffer serious loss of hearing due to inadequate treatment of common childhood diseases. Once deaf they are classified as handicapped, separated from the normal educational stream, and sent to special schools where they will face limited opportunities for the future. With hearing restored they are able to resume normal lives in every way.

JB Robillard is well equipped to recount the challenges and successes of this mission to China. He is registered Hearing Instrument Specialists with the Ontario Ministry of Health and the third generation to head Ottawa's Robillard Hearing Aid Centres and was an active member of the Starkey mission to China.

***No pre-registration. Entry is free for CCFS members and \$5 for non-CCFS members. Memberships are available at the door. Annual membership is \$20 for individuals, \$30 for a family, \$12 for students and \$17 for a student family. Membership forms are available at www.fccfa.ca/Ottawa. For further information about the Society or this event, please consult our web site, send an email to ccfs.ottawa@gmail.com or phone 613-729-3660.*