



## SoundBites Podcast Transcript

### Episode: Jake Spano and Michael Scholl on Starkey Cares

Dave Fabry: Welcome to Starkey Sound Bites. I'm Dave Fabry, Starkey's Chief Innovation Officer and the host of the program, and we're really fortunate to have two guests today. First, Michael Scholl, Starkey's, EVP, Executive Vice President of Corporate Relations, and Jake Spano, who is the Director of Corporate Social Responsibility. Gentlemen, I really appreciate your taking the time to be with us today to talk about corporate social responsibility, corporate relations, and a bunch of other things.

Michael Scholl: Well, thank you, David. It's a pleasure to be here and to be on Starkey Sound Bites.

Jake Spano: Indeed. Looking forward to it.

Dave Fabry: Thank you. Well, first things first, let's talk a little bit about Starkey Cares. Let's talk about why this program was established and really provide a little bit of an overview of what it does.

Michael Scholl: Yeah. No, part of the reason why we're all at Starkey is this idea of caring and giving back. Through the Starkey Hearing Foundation for many years, Starkey did a lot of philanthropic work. Starkey Cares, which is different from the Starkey Hearing Foundation, is our corporate social responsibility program. It's something, working with Mrs. Austin, that we launched in May of 2021, and the idea is about caring, and it's helping communities across the state, across the country, across the world with hearing health.

Starkey Cares is really focused on three main pillars. Our primary pillar is our Neighbors in Need program. The intent behind that pillar is to help people who are unable to afford hearing aids, who may have a hearing loss. Our second pillar is our work that we do with active duty military men and women and veterans. Dave, as you know, and we've talked about before, tinnitus and hearing loss are our top two combat-related injuries for our military men and women. So continuing to support those folks, not only through the benefits that they get at the VA, but other organizations that work with veterans and active duty military men and women is a priority for Starkey Cares.

Then our third pillar for Starkey Cares is really that commitment to helping like-minded organizations that make the world a better place. That can easily be defined by our current partnership that we have with the Special Olympics, where we're working with the Special Olympics globally to provide hearing health for any special Olympian who needs the help. So it's my pleasure to kind of work with Jake, and Mrs. Austin, and others, and you, Dave, right, on the great philanthropic efforts that we do.



Jake can certainly go into more details as he heads up these efforts on a day to day basis. But if we go back to 1967, right? The very first set of hearing aids that Mr. Austin ever made were hearing aids that he provided to somebody who cannot afford hearing aids. That has been the mission of Starkey, 55 years later, is to provide hearing aids for folks who need help. If folks who come into the Center for Excellence need help, or folks all across the country that need help might not be able to afford hearing aids, that's what Starkey Cares is there for.

Dave Fabry: That raises an important question. I mean, there are a lot of people that can fall through the cracks, people that don't have an insurance benefit, or have the financial means, or fall into a program where they could have, like a Medicaid in Minnesota or across the country. What's the process for application for Neighbors in Need? How does someone go about applying for or receiving that benefit? What do they have to do?

Michael Scholl: Well, I'll let Jake take that. I mean, that's one of the things we are fortunate enough to have Jake here as our Director of Corporate Social Responsibility. From the outset, I said, Jake, this is a new program for us. Let's make it as streamlined and as efficient as possible. That's what Jake has spent the last six months on, is really building out, among other things, building out our Neighbors in Need program.

Jake Spano: It's a good reminder to me. I think it was the second day that I was here, Michael and I were actually meeting in his office, and I got a text on my phone and I didn't recognize the number. I was like, "Okay, this is somebody from the company who wants to talk to me about Starkey Cares. I don't know who this is, but I'll have to get back to them." Michael said, "Show me the number." He goes, "That's Mrs. Austin."

Dave Fabry: Better answer that one.

Jake Spano: "She wants you in her office in 20 minutes? Let's wrap up. You want to get down there." In that meeting, she said, "We are doing Starkey Cares with 300 partners right now. I want us to be doing it with 3000 partners." It was that instant energy that she brought to it, just brought to me and shared with me. I said to her, I said, "Yeah, that's going to be fantastic." That's really the difference between making dinner for your family and running a restaurant. They're both feeding people, but they're very different. So-

Dave Fabry: Scaling is what Mrs. Austin is all about. Scalability and sustainability.

Jake Spano: She has been incredibly, as we all know, she's got a high motor and all, the big list of things that she wants to get done. She's been really patient with me as we've built this program and really tried to support some of the internal processes that we have here for the program.



So you asked about what does it take to be involved? There's really two different pieces or channels. Let's talk about from a provider perspective and then a patient perspective. Providers, if you're a customer of ours, you are eligible to be in this program. You simply need to reach out to us. We can get you a link to sign up. Then we provide you with ordering instructions, the sort of basics of how the programs work. The provider's obligation, and Michael and I talked about this, we sort of talk about hearing health as a three-legged stool, and everybody's got a little skin in the game.

Starkey provides the technology, the device. The provider is obligated when they sign up to provide up to five free visits to the patient for fitting, and refinement, and tweaking. The patient pays an application fee, a \$300 application fee. Now, before they pay that fee, they will know whether or not they qualify for the program. We actually have them apply in advance of that, and we make sure that they are income qualified. It's based on income thresholds, and that information is available on our website. So folks can just go to [starkey.com/starkeycares](http://starkey.com/starkeycares), and they can find out more information about the program.

So for our providers, our customers, that's quite simple. That's the way that works. For patients, we have an online application tool that they go in and they validate their income and their basic information, upload their financial documents, we then review it, approve it, they pay the fee, and we let the provider know at the local level that that patient has been approved and they're ready to order their devices and have them shipped to them.

Michael Scholl: I'll tell you, Dave, we want to help as many people as possible through the Starkey Cares program. So talking about scalability, we were at 300 and Jake, we now have how many Neighbors in Need partners?

Jake Spano: Just before I came here, I looked, it's 2,116 in all 50 states and Washington, DC.

Michael Scholl: So in addition to our work-

Jake Spano: We're not to 3000 yet, but we're getting there.

Michael Scholl: We're getting in there. That's where we want to be. But in addition, there is obviously skin in the game from Starkey, there is skin in the game from our customers, our 2,100 partners that we have across the country. Something that we're working on right now, what benefit, obviously we're helping folks who need help, but for the customer, what benefit do they have as well? We're working on processes and different priorities around media and communicating in their local communities that they are a Starkey Cares partner, and what that means for the local communities. So we want to shout and we continue to shout from the rooftops that this program exists. We want to let folks know in



local communities of our partners that this program exists, because we want to help as many people that we can through this Neighbors in Need program.

Dave Fabry: Well, but I can tell you that every clinician, when you say what's in it for them, they know they have some patients who are struggling to be able to purchase devices. This is, it's a core value proposition that we believe our technology with the expertise of the professional can deliver the best results. To have a program like this for individuals who can't otherwise afford to get hearing aids, I can tell you every professional has one or two patients immediately they can think of that fall between the cracks.

Michael Scholl: That's what this is designed for. If we continue to talk about this in local communities, Dave, maybe there are others who have hearing loss who think, you know what? I can't afford hearing aids, so I've never gone to a hearing professional. Maybe this will provide them with enough encouragement to actually go see somebody as well, because they know this program exists in their local community.

Dave Fabry: For sure. When you think about what's happened over the last few years with providing accessibility and affordability for OTC, the investment that Starkey is making, that the professional does in committing to service these patients in need, and for the patient, they're paying less than they're likely to have to pay for an over the counter hearing aid to hear better with that combination of our technology and the professional's expertise. Congratulations on the growth already. That is impressive indeed.

Jake Spano: But honestly, Dave, the credit really goes to our customers on this.

Dave Fabry: Of course.

Jake Spano: When I had first started and started meeting with some of our customers, it was the thing, the first thing out of their mouths was like, "Hey, we were part of the Foundation work," and we loved that, right? We want to know when can we have a seat at the table to provide this additional support? Because as I have said all along, the people who work at Starkey can work anywhere.

Michael is a smart guy. You're a smart guy. There's lots of smart people who work here who could do things, do their jobs in lots of different places. They come here because they want to know that they matter. For our customers, they want to know that they can matter in their local community and that they can change somebody's life. This is a way that they can do that. They've done it in the past and they're eager to do it again. I think that's why we see that explosive growth in the program.

Michael Scholl: You mentioned the Foundation. I know Dave, I think-



Dave Fabry: Yeah, I was just going to say you both mentioned the Foundation. So tell us about that. Does the Foundation still exist?

Michael Scholl: Yeah, so that's a great question. So the Starkey Hearing Foundation does still exist. During COVID, as many folks know, it was difficult to travel and to do a lot of the work that the Foundation had been doing for many years. So the Foundation still exists, and it's primarily organized to educate and to train hearing professionals in third world countries.

Obviously, the Foundation has the school in Africa. We're looking, or the Foundation, I should say, is looking for ways in which they can continue to train and continue to educate hearing professionals, not only in Africa, but other third world countries. So the Foundation exists. But during COVID, as we wanted to get back in helping individuals who needed help, a lot of the work that the Foundation was doing, it was decided that not only are we supporting patients, but we support a lot of other organizations, like-minded organizations.

So how can we bring all of that together into one program? Many companies have a corporate social responsibility program that's part of their corporate identity. So separate from the great work that the Foundation is doing and continues to do, that's where we came up with Starkey Cares as our corporate social responsibility program. It allows us not only to support a Neighbors in Need program, but allows us to work with veterans, work with active duty military, work with other like-minded partners. All of us who are Starkey employees have the ability to participate, and support, and to be excited about it because it is a Starkey corporate social responsibility program.

Dave Fabry: Yeah, no, and so I think, thank you very much for that clarification and distinction between the corporate social responsibility program and then knowing that the Foundation is indeed continuing to do good work around the world in those emerging markets. For me, it's really encouraging to see that despite the challenges of the past few years, that with the Starkey Hearing Institute developing that, again, the scalability and sustainability to build into those programs, people that go back to their home countries and make a difference.

But thank you for that distinction and differentiation between those two. Let's go next, you talked about the different pillars. We've, all three of us had the opportunity earlier this year to participate in the US Special Olympics games. Let's talk a little bit about that partnership and the impact that it made, beginning really back then. I know the work was taking place leading up to that, and where you're going with that now.

Jake Spano: It's really exciting, actually. So our partnership as the Global Hearing Health partner for Special Olympics was announced in March. We did an event here where Tim Shriver, the CEO for Special Olympics International came. We fit a



number of athletes. We have, we've been to the Special Olympics North American Games, Dave, you and I, and Michael, we were there. We've also been to the Unified Cup in Detroit. For folks who don't know, the Unified Cup is where athletes who have intellectual disabilities and athletes who do not compete together on a team.

Dave Fabry: It was a great event.

Jake Spano: It was a great event. Now we are actually, Thursday I leave for Puerto Rico, we are going to be doing an event there. All of that is really building and leading to the World Games in Berlin next summer, which we should see between five and 6,000 athletes from all over the world meeting in Berlin to compete. We're looking forward to being a part of that. So for us, we've already fit over 100 athletes and coaches from Special Olympics with free hearing devices.

They, by the way, just to clarify, don't have to pay that application fee. That's something that we take care of as part of our agreement. I think really what has been exciting about this is Starkey brings a completely different approach to this work than any of the other hearing health providers that Special Olympics has dealt with. In the past, they would hand out vouchers if somebody needed hearing aids, and those folks would then have to find a provider someplace. We're not doing that. We're fitting athletes and coaches on the spot with hearing aids.

Dave Fabry: I think the reason that that's so important, and Michael is well familiar with this statistic, but according to Special Olympics, 30,000 athletes, special Olympians around the world report hearing difficulty. I believe it's 83%, according, again, to Special Olympics, haven't even had a hearing test.

So the issue of this focus and dedication to not only participating with Special Olympics to assist with that diagnosis of a hearing loss at the event and the good work that's being done there to screen individuals for hearing, but then to actually go through the process of fitting them without delay is exceedingly important, because we all know that people have a hard time. Here's a voucher, but they don't know where to go. They don't know who to see. They don't know that scalability and sustainability to tie them back to their local community or nearby with a provider.

Michael Scholl: I think that's the key point, and why this partnership with Special Olympics worked so well, and why we were certainly excited to partner with Special Olympics. But they were eagerly as excited to partner with us. It's because of our global network of hearing professionals, Dave. If you are a Special Olympian, if you are an athlete within Special Olympics and you have a hearing loss, whether you're in the United States or another country, we will find providers that you can see, and you can get fit with the latest technology, and get the aftercare that you need as well.



That's what gives us a unique perspective and expertise in partnering with Special Olympics. So just because we're doing events at the US Games, or the World Games, or the Unified Cup, that's great, and we're helping as many athletes as we can at those games. But we're also helping athletes who can't participate in the games, who are still Special Olympians. Through our network of Starkey Cares partners, they're also helping not only folks through our Neighbors in Need program, but our Special Olympians who may need help as well.

So it's an exciting partnership to be a part of. As both of you know, we attended the US games in Orlando, and we're eager to host the US games, the next US games, which will actually be in Minneapolis in 2026. So you can bet we'll play a role in helping those 4,000 athletes from across the United States that come to Minneapolis. So it's a great partnership because we're doing what we're good at, and we're able to tap into our network of professionals for the athletes all over the globe.

Dave Fabry: I know I'm preaching to the choir in terms of the most of the hearing care professionals that are listening to this podcast, but it's pretty emotional in terms of some ... When I think of both in Michigan and also in Orlando, some of the athletes and some of the stories that we saw. A young athlete from Idaho who, after being fitted, immediately went to his first football game and caught a touchdown pass. Then eloquently commented on how he could hear and know from awareness where the other athletes were on the field so that he could navigate his way to get open, catch the ball, score a touchdown, and hear the crowds cheering.

Michael Scholl: The crowd, right?

Dave Fabry: I mean, it still makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck thinking about his reaction to being able to hear that, and seeing his family, and talking with his mother was pretty remarkable. For the clinicians, they get to do that all the time. But many of us who are clinicians but don't still get that day to day interaction, it remains a very impactful and special feeling.

Michael Scholl: Special Olympics International is a great organization to partner with. So we're really pleased to be able to partner and offer this globally.

Jake Spano: It is also, just as a side note, as somebody who wears hearing aids and has worn them for many years, I've had hearing loss since I was a baby due to pretty serious ear infections that I had. When we were in Orlando, one of the coaches from Kansas came and we fit him. He came racing back on the day we were packing up, and we were sort of putting everything away and, "Oh, I'm so glad I caught you. I was so glad. I wanted just say thank you." He just came over to say thank you. It was a really sweet gesture. I asked him, because as somebody who has worn hearing aids, and as we know everybody has that moment that I



referred to. The moment, when was the moment that you realized that you were going to be experiencing something that you'd never had access to before?

For a lot of people, it's these really dramatic moments of catching touchdowns, or maybe hearing their child, or what have you. We've had stories of people who have said through our Neighbors in Need program that say, "I had a family member fall down and I heard them behind me. I didn't know that, I would never have known that that would happen."

But this coach in Kansas, when I asked him, he said, "Oh yeah, no, I know for sure. Absolutely. I can tell you." His head just sort of dropped down and for about 30 seconds, he just had to kind of collect himself. He said, "I walked out the door and I heard the change jingling in my pocket. For the first time I realized that different coins make different sounds." It had just been a mush of sound to him.

So sometimes it's these big profound moments, but also it's these equally impactful moments. Clearly, even though it was just change jingling in his pocket, it was the realization that he had the hearing health that he deserved. To be a part of that, to be able to be some small part of helping make that happen, it's a pretty amazing experience. I think that is why our customers-

Michael Scholl: It's why we're here.

Jake Spano: Get into it. The story is getting out, right? We've seen, we've had over 350 different stories that have been carried in the news media about Starkey Cares. Much of that has been about our Special Olympics partnership, over a \$1.3 million worth of earned media time. So that means, and the vast majority of those stories are make up a city, Missoula, Montana has a Special Olympics athlete who gets fitted, and the local TV station or the local print media runs a story about that local athlete who went to Orlando and got fitted.

So it's very localized, which we think is really, really impactful for our customers, for everyone to be able to know that that is an option, and exists, and that those folks are doing that work. We really want to lift them up.

Dave Fabry: I think also it needs to be said, Mr. And Mrs. Austin had made the decision when we were at Special Olympics, without any fanfare, that the athletes that were fitted in Orlando were all fitted with state of the art, high end technology. They didn't have to do that. They could have chosen to fit with any technology. But to ensure that these athletes have the opportunity to hear better using that sophisticated technology. Then in working with their local providers.

We were worried at the games about just getting them hearing better because their focus was on the competition. But those devices can do fall detection, can



do and work with an app, if the athlete has a smartphone, and in combination with their local provider to begin, to the degree that they have a phone and work with the technology, can take advantage of all of the features that any patient can. That's really, the partnership with Special Olympics, is providing them with that opportunity to be stronger and better together.

Michael Scholl: Dave, in true Starkey fashion, Jake, the rest of the Starkey Cares team, even Mrs. Austin, we have followed up with every athlete that we've fit multiple times to ensure they're getting the help that they need, to ensure that they made contact with their local provider. That's what it's all about.

Jake Spano: Yeah. It's been a really profound experience for all of us on the team. I know that it's hard to exactly describe, and I'm looking forward to more of it, and working with Special Olympics, and building out that partnership.

Dave Fabry: So you said you're two thirds of the way towards your initial goal. So for hearing healthcare providers that haven't yet participated, how can they do so? I mean, I think you've given some great examples here, the feel good examples. Then the opportunities to really leverage that in their local markets. But any other suggestions for somebody that hasn't yet participated as to why they should?

Jake Spano: Well, two things I would say, first off, you can go to the website, [starkey.com/starkeycares](http://starkey.com/starkeycares) has a good description of all three of the pillars and kind of an overview of what Starkey Cares is. Then they can always reach out to me, right? Jake\_Spano, S-P-A-N-O, @starkey.com. I'm happy to answer any questions they may have. They can also just send a simple email to [Starkeycares@starkey.com](mailto:Starkeycares@starkey.com), that goes to our Starkey Cares team, and they can get them signed up if they're a provider and want to do that.

But we're always happy to have a conversation, because we understand that for providers in different parts of the states, what hearing health looks like from a regulatory and a legal perspective, there's lots of nuances there. That's one of the things that we were really deliberate about at the beginning was this wasn't going to be a one size fits all program that we're just going to sort of ram over to customers.

We really, when a patient calls and says, "Hey, I think I might be a good fit for this program," we start by saying, "Okay, Dave, what's your zip code? Let's find you a hearing health partner in your area." Then we send him to Scholl's House of Hearing, and we let the provider own that relationship and that decision with the patient. Then if Starkey Cares is a good fit for them, awesome. They know how to loop back to us. We can then get them the application, get them approved, get the payment, and get those hearing devices ordered. So we try to make it as absolutely simplified-

Dave Fabry: No, you've really streamlined it, and simplified it.



Michael Scholl: Obviously, Jake mentioned the 3,000 number we want to hit and surpass 3,000 Starkey Cares Partners. So if you're not signed up and you're interested, you should go to [starkey.com/starkeycares](http://starkey.com/starkeycares) or send Jake an email. But we want to grow that number. We want to do-

Dave Fabry: We're not going to stop at 3,000.

Michael Scholl: As we look forward, we also want to use this network for larger fitting events in local communities where we can come in with a team, and maybe we've identified a larger group of Starkey Cares recipients. We can come in and do fitting events in local communities as well. So as we look ahead, what does next year have in mind? As we continue to scale, obviously we want to help every individual patient. But I think there's an opportunity to do some larger events as well via Starkey Cares.

Jake Spano: That discussion is already happening. One of the really, really cool things about this, because I didn't work in the hearing health community, I didn't work in philanthropy or anything before coming here, is the passion that our customers bring to this. So to Michael's point, we already have a patient, or a customer in Ohio, for example, who is already working with some folks locally there to want to do these sorts of events.

We also have four states, Maryland, Louisiana, Ohio, and one other one, where we've got our customers who maybe serve in a volunteer capacity with Special Olympics, who are like, "We want to do the state level games." So our customers are taking it upon themselves to reach out to me and us and say, "How does it work? What do we need? What can we do?" But what the beauty of all of that is that they're not waiting for direction from us. They're taking the ownership and really leading on it. I'm just sort of being that facilitator to support them as they build that out.

Dave Fabry: Fantastic. So we've talked about Neighbors in Need. We've talked about the Special Olympics. You talked about at the beginning, the three pillars. Anything additional to offer on really that third branch in greater detail?

Jake Spano: Pun intended? That third branch?

Michael Scholl: Yes. No, our focus, and Jake's focus in kind of early in 2023 is to grow that active duty military men, and women, and veterans piece. We do a lot of work locally with organizations that share a common mission with Starkey. So we support local groups like Beyond the Yellow Ribbon and other veteran groups in our local community. But we're really working through ways that we can identify groups across the country that we can partner with and support that share our common mission of helping military men, and women, and veterans.



So we're going to be identifying programs where folks in their local communities can maybe identify organizations that we should be supporting via Starkey Cares. We're excited to perhaps roll that out early next year. Continuing to work with large veteran service organizations as well, to partner with them to support their organizations. So Jake has also brought together a group of veterans at Starkey. Right? We're getting ideas from them about how we can better support them or provide opportunities for them within Starkey.

One thing that Jake continues to talk about, and he's exactly right. Generally, when you think about corporate social responsibility programs, they're really outward facing. What are you doing for folks in the community and outside of the organization? But our Starkey Cares program is designed for employees as well. What types of things are we doing for our employees? People want to come work at Starkey because of all of this corporate social responsibility work that we're doing. So not only are we finding partners and doing work outside of the company, but Jake is working with organizations and small groups inside Starkey to identify what else can we do for employees at Starkey as well.

Jake Spano:

That has been, right out of the bat, the two sort of moments. I remember that first week one was the meeting with Mrs. Austin, and the other one was a person who was a reservist here reaching out to me on maybe the day, a third day. Walked into my office and said, "So you're the new Starkey Cares guy. What are we doing with the military piece and how can I help?" It wasn't, it wasn't figure it out and fix it. It was, how can we work together?

So as Michael mentioned, there's a group of maybe 15 to 20 folks that are either veterans, reservists, or National Guards members. I'd also like to expand that, maybe to include the family members of some of our folks who serve, because frequently you find folks that serve in the military don't ask for things for themselves. They worry more about their family. So we want to make sure that that voice is at the table.

But they have been great about letting me know what it is that they're interested in, what do they need, what do they want? We're going to use them as a resource moving forward to inform the program as we build it. Also be ambassadors for it. Because I've said many, many times, the best ideas for Starkey Cares will not come out of my office, or Michael's office, or our conversation. It'll come from sort of crowdsourcing with our customers, our patients, and our employees. But I agree with Michael, it is a differentiator for Starkey.

Michael Scholl:

We'll have some exciting announcements regarding that pillar in 2023.

Dave Fabry:

Excellent. Yeah, I mean, in typical Starkey fashion, I think you just look at the bottom of your sleeve, you got two hands there to help. That people were reaching out to you as soon as you came on board, is testimony to the type of



people that we have here. So you've talked about where we've gone until now. You talked a little bit about that we're not going to stop at 3,000. Where do you see this program one year from now, three years from now? Talk a little bit, put your crystal ball on and say, where are you going with this?

Michael Scholl: Yeah, I kind of mentioned this earlier, but obviously we want to hit that 3,000 number for our Starkey Cares partners. But what I really want to focus on is what can we do? What larger Starkey Cares events can we do across the country and across the globe? Right? I'll give you an example of that. We had a state attorney general on campus a couple of months ago. Obviously, as we all know, state AGs really regulate the hearing aid space in their state. So we had them here. They were understanding about Starkey and the industry. It was a really good meeting.

At the very end, this state AG, I introduced the AG to Mr. Austin, and they chatted for a few seconds. Then the AG walked out. But as the AG was walking away, Mr. Austin came up behind him and said, "Don't forget, we will come into a Starkey Cares event program. If you have people that we need to come help, we will be there to help them in your state." Right? That's what it's all about. So how do we grow and scale? Not only are number of Neighbors in Need partners, but the number of patients who have hearing loss that we can help.

Dave Fabry: He never misses an opportunity to figure out another way that he can try to achieve his goal so the world may hear. I think he takes that goal literally, that he wants to get each and every person and provide them with the opportunity to hear better and live better.

Okay. So it's one of our traditions that we like to talk a little bit, since we're we're called, we're focused on sound on this podcast. So Michael, I'll begin with you. I know that you're quite a fan of music, and one of the things that we'll do often is ask like your favorite sound or musical artist. I know for you, that's going to be difficult. You've got a broad array-

Michael Scholl: Many genres. Many genres-

Dave Fabry: From Celine Dion to the Bee Gees. So what's your favorite musical artist? The sound that you really want to preserve your hearing for?

Michael Scholl: Yeah, I would say the Bee Gees, right? When I'm on a plane, if I'm listening to music, generally it's the Bee Gees number one hits album, which folks should know. They're number three all time with number one hits according to Billboard. So I just throw that out there.

Dave Fabry: Okay. Then how about your favorite quiet place that you go to retreat or the sound, the place that you go ... You talked about tinnitus and hearing loss are



two of the big concerns with veterans. But what about on the other end? Where do you go for your sanctuary?

Michael Scholl: Yeah. No, I've got, and we've got an office in the house, and we've got the doors, and generally during COVID, and when folks were working from home, but yet the kids were away at school, I could really focus and get a lot done just with the doors closed in the office. Right? So the other place, I'll tell you, it's not necessarily quiet, but I spend a fair amount of time on a plane with a set of headphones on I can really concentrate, and focus, and get a lot of thinking done. Because you don't have the bothers, right? I mean, it's just you for a couple of hours. So that's another place where I go to concentrate.

Dave Fabry: Okay. So now, if Jake-

Jake Spano: Yes.

Dave Fabry: As well, you've talked about the fact that you have a hearing loss. You know better than Michael or I even how precious the sense of hearing is. I also know you're a fierce competitor. If you would just hand that over to Jake. I'm going to, rather than do the issue of your favorite sound, you and I have competed with Heardle. So Jake, go ahead and try to play a small sample of this and identify the song, because we have done this.

Jake Spano: We have. You and I, yes. We had a little bit of a ... I've stepped away from Heardle a little bit, so I'm out of ... Okay, here we go.

Dave Fabry: So can you get that?

Jake Spano: Back in Black by AC/DC.

Dave Fabry: No, Franz Ferdinand. But good guess. But this one time I beat him, he's remarkable at this game.

Jake Spano: It's not-

Dave Fabry: But not today. Today, I'll claim victory.

Jake Spano: That is right.

Dave Fabry: You got to give me a little victory this year because-

Jake Spano: I bow before you.

Dave Fabry: I have stunk all season. So with that, we're out of time. I'm really appreciative of both of you coming on and providing a wealth of information about the Starkey Cares Program, the corporate social responsibility. It's the holiday season.



There's no better time. If you haven't enrolled in the Starkey Cares program, please go to the website. Jake, again, give us the website.

Jake Spano: [Just Starkey.com/starkeycares](https://www.starkey.com/starkeycares)

Dave Fabry: You can go start thinking about those patients who will have the opportunity to hear better during the holiday season and into the new year because of this program, if they fall between the cracks. Michael and Jake, I really appreciate your being here. If you like this session, please like us on your favorite podcast platform, share it with your friends. Please enroll and subscribe on your favorite platform so that you're sure not to miss a single episode. We look forward to seeing you and hearing you. Thank you very much for listening.