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Starkey Hearing Technologies' Brandon Sawalich Named 40 Under 40 Honoree

MINNEAPOLIS, March 31, 2015 – Brandon Sawalich, senior vice president at Starkey Hearing Technologies, was named one of *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 honorees at the awards ceremony March 5. The ceremony drew hundreds of professionals from across Minnesota to celebrate the honorees. The *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal* 40 Under 40 list includes young business and community leaders from throughout the Twin Cities. *Business Journal* editors evaluated a record number of nominations this year and chose 40 people under the age of 40 who have already established themselves as leaders in their industries and the community.

"I am honored and humbled to be one of the 40 Under 40 honorees," Sawalich said.

"Leadership is easier when you surround yourself with the best and brightest and allow them do their jobs. I work with a great group of people who make me better and the Starkey Hearing team stronger every day."

Sawalich is a passionate, forward-thinking advocate for hearing health in Minnesota, the greater United States and the global community. As a 20-year employee of Starkey Hearing Technologies, he has built expertise in nearly all aspects of sales and marketing in the hearing industry. Earlier this year the company unveiled Halo™, a Made for iPhone® hearing aid. Sawalich led the effort to educate Starkey Hearing Technologies' customers on the technology, personally hosting 31 training sessions across the country, and oversaw the national advertising campaign to educate the general public on the new technology.

Philanthropy plays an instrumental role in Sawalich's corporate outlook and his personal life. He is a longtime supporter of Special Olympics Minnesota and was elected to its Board of Directors in April 2014. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the International Hearing Foundation since 2012. Additionally, he is an active participant in the Starkey Hearing Foundation, which fits more than 150,000 hearing aids annually to children and adults during more than 65 missions all over the world. As a member of President Clinton's Global Initiative, the foundation has pledged to fit more than one million hearing aids to people in need this decade.

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Sawalich began his career at Starkey Hearing Technologies at the age of 19 in the global hearing provider's hearing aid repair lab and held several roles within the company before being named senior vice president in 2010. Today, Sawalich oversees the company's market development, leading a team of more than 350 customer-facing professionals in sales, marketing and customer relations.

About Starkey® Hearing Technologies

Starkey Hearing Technologies is a privately held, global hearing technology company headquartered in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. The company is recognized for its innovative design, development and distribution of comprehensive digital hearing systems. Founded in 1967, Starkey Hearing Technologies currently employs more than 3,600 people, operates 21 facilities and conducts business in more than 100 markets worldwide. The company develops, manufactures and distributes hearing aids via three distinct brands – Audibel, NuEar and its original brand, Starkey. For more information, visit <http://www.starkey.com>.

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