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## Scott Hamilton joins Chicken Soup in saying "Thanks Dad" *Adopted son and cancer survivor rejoices in becoming a father*

**COS COB, Conn.** – Odds are you know Scott Hamilton for winning Olympic Gold in Men's Figure Skating in 1984, and for most recently commentating during men's and women's ice skating at this year's Vancouver games. But most don't know Scott for his other job and of course his favorite, raising his two young sons.

A testicular cancer survivor, Scott thought it was unlikely that he would even become a father. Then a miracle happened, and he and his wife had their first child, Aiden. For the first time in his life, Scott was able to look into the eyes of his own flesh and blood.

"Being adopted, that was one thing I could never share with my parents. Physical characteristics. Eyes, nose, body type, etc. I never craved those things. I didn't think they were important until I looked in Aiden's eyes. They were MINE! Identical! And I'll never forget the moment I realized that," Scott says in his foreword. "After struggling with health issues on and off throughout my life, and wondering if I would be able to have my own children, I suddenly realized my own reason for becoming a parent. No one will ever look at me the way my children can – with complete love, need, fear of the unknown, and trust. *With my own eyes.*"

After being diagnosed with cancer again, this time a pituitary brain tumor, Scott and his wife defied medical odds again with the birth of their second child, Maxx. "I have the magnificent duty and honor of being the most important man in my sons' lives. And they are the most important men in mine. I will never be the same."

One of the best competitive ice skaters in the sport's history, Scott defined all the odds to not only be the best in his sport, but to make it past childhood. Plagued by illness at a young age, Scott miraculously started to recover when he found skating. But as he got to higher levels of competition, the expense became unbearable, forcing his parents to make personal sacrifices to keep the family from going bankrupt.

"Their sacrifices were beyond reason or logic. I was sick as a child and they did everything they could to find the answers to bring me back to health," Scott shares about his own parents. "I carried a lot of guilt about the sacrifices my parents made for me until I had children of my own. It was then that I understood there is no sacrifice too great for your children."

*Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks Dad* (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, April 2010, 978-1-935096-46-7, \$14.95) is a collection of 101 Stories of Gratitude, Love, and Good Times that will let any dad know his kids really are grateful, and really were listening and learning from his example. Written from the perspective of child-to-father from children of all ages, and with special chapters for stepfathers and grandfathers, *Thanks Dad* is a Chicken Soup for the Soul collection any father will relate to and enjoy reading.

*Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks Dad* (Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Wendy Walker) releases in April 2010. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes all the latest titles in the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series which are distributed through Simon and Schuster, Inc. Since 1993, books in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series have sold more than 112 million copies, with titles translated into more than 40 languages. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous trademark to high quality licensees through IMG, the world's premier licensing agent. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media, is working with TV networks on several TV shows and is developing a major Internet presence dedicated to life improvement, emotional support and inspiration. In 2007, *USA Today* named *Chicken Soup for the Soul* one of the five most memorable and impactful books in the last quarter century. For more information visit: [www.chickensoup.com](http://www.chickensoup.com).

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To receive a review copy of *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Thanks Dad*, or to schedule an interview with Scott Hamilton, please contact Rusty Shelton at 512-785-4469 or [rusty@sheltoninteractive.com](mailto:rusty@sheltoninteractive.com).