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**WORLD POLIO DAY  
OCTOBER 24, 2022  
NIAGARA FALLS LIGHTS UP FOR WORL POLIO DAY**

Beautiful day today!

A century ago, Poliomyelitis (Polio) emerged and caused widespread paralysis and death annually. After decades of fear, with the virus striking again and again, in 1953 US virologist Dr. Jonas Salk developed and then confidently tested his experimental killer-virus vaccine on himself and his family. A year later, he tested it on 1.6 million children and his success was announced a year after that. Widespread vaccination began and within a year, annual cases dropped by over 90%.

Thanks to Salk's work, Polio was eradicated in the US in 1979 and Rotary committed to the PolioPlus program, vowing to eradicate Polio worldwide. Despite a few breakthrough cases, including one in New York earlier this year, Polio is now endemic in only Afghanistan and Pakistan. The end of Polio is now within sight.

**WORLD POLIO DAY**

More than a decade ago, Rotary declared today, Salk's Birthday, to be "World Polio Day" both to honor a man who never profited from his life-changing vaccine and to reaffirm our commitment to ridding the world of the scourge of Polio once and for all time.

When I went to India with Rotary's Group Study Exchange in 2002, being there for their National Polio Immunization Day was THE highlight of our month of all things Rotary. Our team was able to help with giving the vaccine at one of the thousands of drop-in clinics where parents brought their children for the precious drops of the vaccination. It gave real understanding too to the purple finger that each child went away with. It was the sign that you had been vaccinated and if you got off a bus or train and people were encouraging you to get the vaccine at the site at most bus stops and train stations, the purple finger identified those who already had their drops that day. 10,000,000 children were vaccinated that day.

If you haven't already, consider investing in the end of Polio at <https://my.rotary.org/en/rotary-direct> and share your commitment with friends.

Yours in Rotary,  
Annie