**Rotary Club of London “End Polio Now!” Run-Walk-athon Report**

The **1st Annual Rotary Club of London “End Polio Now!” Run-Walk-athon** was held on Saturday, October 24th in honour of World Polio Day.

Rotary has been working on eradicating polio since its initial project in the Philippines in 1979 and we are almost there.

Rotary is a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative whose other partners are The World Health Organization (WHO), U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the vaccine alliance.

Just 8 weeks ago, WHO announced that transmission of the wild poliovirus has officially been stopped in all 47 countries of its African region. This is a historic and vital step toward global eradication of polio, which is Rotary’s top priority.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it’s crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

Club members who participated in this years event where Dianne Prowse Twynstra, Keith Morrow, Majo with Danielle & Don Bork, John Stuart, Jack Scott Steve Knox, John Eberhard, John Boyne and Jim Belton.

Our Goal was to raise US$6,500 and we came in with US$5,431 or 83.5% of our Goal. Or, in Canadian dollars - $7,277.54. After the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches our US$5,431 the new total will be US$16,293 or **$21,832.62 Canadian!**

To our family members, fellow Rotarians and friends – **“Thank You” very, very much for helping to make this event so successful.**

Yours in Rotary

Jim Belton  
Rotary Club of London  
Club Chair, Rotary *(International)* Foundation Committee

 