

JOINT POLIO CAMPAIGN REACHES 80 MILLION AFRICAN CHILDREN

Eighty million children were targeted during the second round of joint [National Immunization Days](#) in 23 West and Central African countries in late November.

More than 40 million of the children immunized were in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. Nigerian Vice President Atiku Abubakar launched the event in Abuja, the national administrative capital, on 19 November.

According to National [PolioPlus](#) Committee Chair Ade Adefeso, Nigeria is now back on track in its efforts to eradicate polio by the end of 2005. He credits the turnaround to a firm commitment from the Nigerian government and support from traditional, religious, and opinion leaders, including those from the state of Kano who led a yearlong boycott of immunization activities. The boycott sparked a polio outbreak that swept through Nigeria and across its borders into 12 previously polio-free African countries.

"The level of commitment on the part of the federal government is constantly demonstrated in words and in deeds by President Olusegun Obasanjo, the dedication of the National Program on Immunization, and support from states governors and other government functionaries," said Adefeso, who attended the launch in Abuja. "The participation of the Nigerian Rotarians in the November 2004 NIDs (National Immunization Days), most especially in the southern part of Nigeria, was unprecedented. In [RI] District 9110, over 1,000 Rotarians took part."

Other participating countries organized separate launch ceremonies. More than 100 European and North American Rotarians joined over one million African health workers and volunteers, including thousands of local Rotarians, to deliver and administer the polio vaccine from house to house. Twenty of the visiting Rotarians, including RI Director Kenneth Morgan, the RI president's representative at the NIDs, traveled to various parts of Nigeria and the rest to other West African destinations.

Besides Nigeria and Guinea, countries that participated in the synchronized NIDs included Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Togo.

"Everything went very well," said Moussa K. Diakité, National PolioPlus Committee chair in Guinea. "The Rotarians were so enthusiastic."

In an interview held on the eve of the joint NIDs, Dr. David Heymann, WHO executive director for communicable diseases, was full of praise for Rotary International's pioneering leadership in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

"[Rotary] took the world into this polio eradication initiative because of their humanitarian desires to see that children everywhere had access to polio vaccines as did children in industrialized countries," he told Washington File, a daily news update distributed to media worldwide by the U.S. State Department's information agency. "Every time there was a gap — such as a lack of vehicles or a lack of social mobilization material — Rotary [representatives] put their hand[s] up, and said, 'We'll fill that gap.' They're incredible at all levels. They've been extremely important partners in polio eradication and continue to be."



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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INVOCATION

Dec. 14	Stan Wade	Jan. 4	Laurie Anderson
Jan. 11	Brian Bekar	Jan. 18	Anil Bharwani



BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
Dec. 30	Brian Bekar	Mina Park
Jan. 27	Debbie MacRae	Mina Park



Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail peter.boekhorst@telus.net

TODAY'S PROGRAM: AGM & Election of Officers

NEXT WEEK: NO REGULAR MEETING

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Dec. 14	7:00pm	Crystal Meth Campaign Wrap Up	Council Chambers
Dec. 21	6:30pm	Christmas Party	Robson's house
Feb. 8		Membership Drive	
April 9	8:00am	District Assembly	Kwantlen University College, Surrey
May 12		District 5050 Centennial Conference	Victoria, BC
May 28		WineZest 2005	
June 18-22		RI Centennial Convention	Chicago

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dec. 19 – Vladimir & Zdenka Cukor

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$766+ 1/2 of today's sales, 26 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

LAST WEEKS MEETING

The meeting began with Gordy providing an update on the Hospice calendar sales, the upcoming Christmas Party and the Christmas Parade.

Walter introduced the guests who included Sterling Young from the Whitehorse Rotary Club, Hilton Haider previously with the Whistler Rotary Club, Marco's guest Matt DeBruyn, exchange student Leonie and Inspector Janice Armstrong who was being inducted as our newest member.



Gordy introduced Janice and Marco performed her installation into the Club. Janice is the Chief of Police. She was born in Montreal and grew up in the Maritimes. In 1986 she joined the RCMP, and previously served in Hope and Surrey.

We then had the committee reports for our business meeting. Lindsay began by providing the financial position of the club as of October 31. He advised that there is \$79,658. in the general account with payables of \$48,364. There is \$13,000. in the Bingo account and \$63,000. in the Sports Banquet account with an additional \$50,000. in term deposits.

Dot then introduced her Club Service Committee. She advised that Laurie and Stan form the Rotary Information Committee. Peter is in charge of the Club

Bulletin. Ken is in charge of the Family of Rotary Committee and Cheryl is looking after public relations. Kevin, Brian & Debbie McRae are on the Fellowship Committee which co-ordinates the golf tournament and the Christmas Party.

Sharon then introduced her Community Service Committee – Andrea, Ron, Laurie, Debbie M., Brenda and Lynda. She advised that her funding comes from bingo which raises about \$30,000. annually. She advised that the committee has approved and spent \$6,500. to date this year with commitments of \$10,000. to be spent on the Crystal Meth Campaign and \$5,000. for the Zajak Ranch.

Diane is the committee chair for the Vocational Committee, which is comprised of Andrea, Ineke and Alex. They meet the second Wednesday of the month at Diane's office. They have approved an Ambassadorial Scholarship for the young lady that spoke at one of our meeting in November and are working to get an Interact group together.

Peter is in charge of the International Committee. Peter advised that the water well project for Zambia isn't moving ahead as they cannot get a grant due to too many applications in play. He has been looking for another project and has found one in the Philippines. A public school in Manila needs a well. It will benefit 4,000 students and the cost is \$4,000. USD. We'll need to fund \$1,600. USD with the grant that's available.

Submitted by Lynda Lawrence

ROTARY AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Hundreds of Rotarians and guests were among the participants at a 26 November conference in Beirut, Lebanon, held to honor and strengthen the bonds between Rotary and the United Nations.

Hosted by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission to Western Asia (ESCWA), Rotary Day at the United Nations was concluded with a gala dinner attended by government ministers and legislators, in addition to more than 100 other guests.

In a keynote address at the conference, Tawfik Kawar, Rotary International's representative to ESCWA, described several local and international humanitarian initiatives that are successful because of collaboration between UN agencies and Rotary. He counted polio eradication, HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention, food production, maternal education and child spacing, and business internships among examples of such jointly sponsored efforts.

"Today, there are a growing number of local projects implemented in collaboration with the UN system," he said. "UN agencies highlight Rotary projects as best-practice examples during events and in publications. Both the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the UN Center for Human Settlements commended a sanitation and public health initiative developed by Rotary clubs in Ecuador. Examples of Rotary's work for literacy were presented to the African ministers of education in Durban, South Africa, in 1998 and at UNESCO regional conferences in Dakar, Senegal, and Melbourne, Australia."

As a sign of shared ideals, Kawar pointed out, UN officials and Rotary leaders often participate in meetings and activities hosted by either organization. After outlining the process through which Rotary sometimes establishes partnerships with like-minded organizations, he encouraged participants to consider joint initiatives with Rotary.

"Rotary International looks forward to continuing partnerships with other organizations on the local, regional, national, and international levels," he said. "I invite you now to consider Rotary clubs as a potential partner for your organization's future goals."

Mervet Tellawi, the UN secretary-general's representative, and Rotary Foundation Trustee Michael Abdalla also spoke at the conference.

