

Club Members Rise to the PolioPlus Funding Challenge

Story by Ed Kolybaba on Nov 08, 2020



Sunrise Rotary club members rose to the challenge issued early in October by 2020-21 Vice-President Randall Bamford to achieve the PolioPlus funding goal established by the Rotary Foundation Committee of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise by World Polio Day established for October 24. The 2020-21 Rotary Year goal to raise through member donations, set at **US\$2750**, was only short by US\$107. No doubt, the goal will be surpassed considering that the Rotary Year does not conclude until June 30, 2021.

Along with funds raised by the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise through specific projects, Rotary members from the club have donated **US\$ 56,410** since December of 2007 to the PolioPlus Fund of The Rotary Foundation. No information is available for the donations made from 1985 to November 2007 by the club and its members.



Worldwide, Rotarians have contributed more than \$2.1 billion to polio eradication since the fund raising program was launched in 1985. Furthermore, because of a two to one match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, each year over \$150 million goes toward fulfilling Rotary's promise to the children of the world, that is that no child shall ever again suffer from the devastating effects of polio.

The biggest challenge for Rotarians around the world, including members from the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, is now to eradicate the wild poliovirus from Afghanistan and Pakistan, two countries where polio has never been stopped; and to continue with routine immunizations throughout Africa and other countries of the world to eliminate the possibility of the virus returning to any of these countries.