Club Members Support Polio Eradication

Ed Kolybaba

Sep 17, 2012

PolioPlus



In 2007, the Rotary Foundation issued a challenge to Rotarians around the world to make financial contributions to the PolioPlus Fund to enable the Rotary Foundation with its partners to <u>continue</u> to eradicate polio from the world. All of the clubs within District 5060 took up the challenge and made contributions to the PolioPlus Fund a priority in their fund raising campaigns and in seeking donations from their members.

The Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise and its members recognized the need to accept the challenge and while doing so raised US\$37,288.54 during the five year period. Members of the club are to be congratulated for raising the most funds of all of the clubs in the district since the challenge was issued. The club with the second highest funds raised in the district was the Rotary Club of Kamloops West with an amount of US\$27,713.74.



Rotarians around the world have been a driving force in eradicating polio from the world. For more than 25 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of this crippling disease. Today, PolioPlus and its role in the polio eradication initiative is recognized worldwide as a model of public-private cooperation in pursuit of a humanitarian goal.

Through the funds, well over US\$1 billion, contributed by Rotary through its clubs and Rotarians, Rotary and its partners are getting ever closer to eradicating this tenacious disease. We need only to look back over the past decade to recognize the outstanding advancements that have been made in reaching the goal of eradication. In 2006, the number of polio-endemic countries had dropped to four, the lowest in human history. Only India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria were recognized as being polio-endemic at that time. In February of 2012, another milestone was attained when India was declared polio free. Even with these achievements, there is still a need for a strong push to rid this dreadful disease once and for all.

With this in mind, members of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise are encouraged to maintain their contributions to the PolioPlus Fund.