

WORLD POLIO DAY – OCTOBER 24TH

1. PINTS FOR POLIO !! Celebrating all the good things that have happened because of PolioPlus !! INFUSION TAPROOM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM, Fun, Fellowship, Celebration, Reflection
2. ONE DAY, ONE FOCUS, ENDING POLIO !! Up-to-date progress report on eradicating polio. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2:30 PM PDT, See where we have been and where we're headed. Experts give us latest news -- streaming live at www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day 2:30 PM.

POLIO FACT SHEET

. Poliomyelitis – a horrific disease. Often paralyzing. Often fatal. Mainly strikes children under 5 but can strike any age. Poliovirus invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. Incurable but can be completely prevented with vaccine. Especially hard to eradicate in geographic areas with weak health systems and poor sanitation. Cases currently reported in Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Polio time line as follows:

1789: British physician gives first clinical description of the disease.

1894: First polio epidemic in the United States strikes Vermont with 132 cases diagnosed.

1908: Doctors isolate poliovirus proving that it is a virus, not a bacterium. Encourages vaccine experimentation.

1950s: Polio outbreaks cause estimated 15,000 cases of paralysis per year in the United States alone.

1955: First polio vaccine developed by Jonas Salk.

1961: Second vaccine - oral polio vaccine developed by Albert Sabin.

1979: World Health Organization declares polio eradicated in the United States.

1979: Rotary launches vision of worldwide eradication with immunization program in the Philippines. Pledges 5 year effort and \$760,000 funding.

1980: World Health Organization declares smallpox eradicated worldwide.

1985: Rotary launches PolioPlus program with dedicated focus of eradicating polio. Fund raising goal set at \$120 million.

1988: Estimated 350,000 polio cases worldwide. Vast majority are children under 5 years of age.

1988: Rotary International, World Health Organization, UNICEF, and CDC pass Global Polio Eradication Initiative with goal of eradicating polio by year 2000.

2009: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledges \$355 million and issues Rotary challenge grant of \$200 million. \$555 million raised.

2013: Gates Foundation pledges to match Rotary contributions two-to-one, up to \$35 million through 2018

2016: 37 polio cases worldwide. 99.9% reduction in disease since 1980s. Disease survives only in Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan

2016: Estimated 16 million people, mostly children, have been saved from the savage effects of this disease

2017: Over 2.5 billion children have been vaccinated. Rotary has raised over \$1.7 billion and worked closely with other donors in raising \$7.2 billion

2017: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gives new commitment of up to \$450 million to eradicate polio.

2017: Rotary International commits to raising \$50 million per year for the next three years with each dollar to be matched with two additional dollars from the Gates Foundation.

LOOKING FORWARD -- Total worldwide eradication of polio through dedicated advocacy, massive fund raising, logistical support, communications, transportation and countless volunteer hours. Every child is to be immunized. Rotary advocacy and encouragement continues to overcome problems raised by cultural barriers, armed conflicts, geographic isolation, poor public infrastructure, and reluctant/recalcitrant governments. World Polio Day is a great time to celebrate our awesome progress and to look forward to 100% success with great optimism and enthusiasm.

