

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



Caesar Kavadoy Named

"Rotarian of the Month" for December

President Jerry Gross recognized **Caesar Kavadoy** for increasing club membership with two new members, Anil Alpay and Nabil Bedewi. Congratulations, Caesar, for being an outstanding club builder!

Upcoming Events

January 11 – 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

Dr. Michael Greger: "Pandemic Influenza"

January 13 – Hunter's Inn Luncheon

12:00 noon Membership Committee

1:00pm Board of Directors Meeting

January 18 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting

New Member Installation

Classification Talk

January 25 - 6:30pm Rotary Club Meeting



**Smiljka's Family Celebrates
New Year's Eve in Florida**

Washingtonian of the Year Praises Potomac-Bethesda Rotary For Exceptional Service!

The Washingtonian magazine has named Vivian G. Bass, Chief Executive Officer, Jewish Foundation for Group Homes (JFGH), as a Washingtonian of the Year for the year 2006. She and JFGH is featured in the January 2007 issue of the magazine.



Vivian was chosen by The Washingtonian from hundreds of candidates who have made Washington a better place to live. She is being honored for her 30-year commitment to improve the quality of life, independence, community inclusion and dignity of individuals with disabilities throughout the metropolitan Washington D.C. area, nationally and internationally.

Vivian described JFGH as a non-profit, non-sectarian community residential program, which enhances the independence and quality of life for adults with disabilities. JFGH provides long-term support, personal assistance services, and training to enhance independent living skills for residents in home

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and supervised apartment environments. Since its inception in 1982, the agency has grown to support 151 individuals in 21 homes, 39 apartments, and a variety of other living arrangements in Maryland, Northern Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Vivian has worked in a leadership capacity for programs supporting individuals with disabilities in the Greater Washington D.C. community since 1977. Employed at JFGH since 1986, she has served as the agency's chief executive officer since 1995.



Larry Herman, President of JFGH

"Vivian Bass's passion to enhance the independence and quality of life of individuals with disabilities and their families is unparalleled. Her visionary efforts have led JFGH from a small organization supporting a handful of individuals, to a regional organization that has become a model for similar agencies worldwide," said Larry Herman, president of the JFGH Board of Directors who accompanied her to the club meeting.

Vivian showed a video that featured the home that our club worked on this past year. The carpeting that was the same as installed in a downtown Washington hotel ballroom drew

quite a bit of interest because of the bold pattern.

Vivian has played a pivotal role in consortiums and legislative/consumer advocacy efforts and is a recent past chairperson of the Montgomery County Inter-Agency Coordinating Council for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities.

Vivian has developed a myriad of policy, training, public relations and other materials that have been implemented worldwide. She has presented or had papers delivered at professional conferences including the World Congress on Disabilities in conjunction with the Paralympics, American Association of Mental Retardation (AAMR), the National Organization on Disability (NOD), National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and Coalitions on Alternatives to Jewish Education (CAJE).

She has received numerous distinctions including the City of Rockville Human Rights Commission's F. Michael Taff Award; PCR's Patricia Sullivan Award; the 2001 Sulam Award; and is a Jewish Federation of Greater Washington 'Woman of Valor' (Lion of Judah), the highest recognition for Jewish women internationally.

Under Vivian's leadership, JFGH was recognized as the "Non-Profit of the Year" in 2006 by Victims Rights Foundation International and for five consecutive years has received a four-star rating (the highest rating) from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities' financial health.

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Global Polio Eradication Initiative Status 2006

In 2005, the world moved several critical milestones closer to polio eradication, including the successful introduction of more effective and targeted oral polio vaccines, visible progress in the hardest endemic areas and an end to west and central Africa's epidemic (outside Nigeria). Only four countries are still polio-endemic - an all-time low: Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Egypt and Niger were declared polio-free in February of 2006.

Polio cases in 2006	
Nigeria	1062
Yemen	1
Indonesia	2
India	624
Bangladesh	17
Pakistan	39
Ethiopia	17
DRC	11
Niger	12
Afghanistan	31
Somalia	33
Nepal	2
Namibia	19
TOTAL	1870

The primary challenge to the successful global eradication of polio is ongoing transmission in the remaining endemic areas, from where poliovirus can continue to be exported into polio-free areas. In addition to the endemic countries, nine countries have reported polio cases in 2006 due to importations (Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Niger, Nepal, DRC and Namibia). In Afghanistan and Pakistan, intensification of immunizations continues to focus in particular on areas where access may be hampered due to security issues.

Stopping polio can be completed rapidly, except in Nigeria, where an additional 12 months are needed to finish the job. However, polio eradication will only succeed if the necessary funds are made available, and with strong political commitment in polio-affected countries to implement the eradication strategies. Most urgently, a US\$ 50 million shortfall must be filled as rapidly as possible. The eradication effort requires a further US\$ 390 million for the 2007-2008 period.



India steps up efforts to end polio

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
4 January 2007

Despite the stiff challenge posed to India's polio eradication efforts by a 2006 outbreak, the country's health minister, Anbumani Ramadoss, is optimistic that India will soon be free of the disease.

Because of the outbreak, India reported more than 600 cases of polio in 2006, a sharp increase from only 66 cases in 2005. Most of the new cases occurred in Uttar Pradesh, an impoverished northern state. From there, the virus spread to Angola, Bangladesh,

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Namibia, and Nepal.

In mid-December, Ramadoss said he was confident the battle for a polio-free India would be won with stepped-up immunizations. "In three years, we will do away with polio," he said. "We are at the end of the problem and will hit the final nail in the coffin."

Julie Gerberding, head of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the outbreak "is a warning that we can't be complacent." She also noted that the last few cases of polio are often the most difficult to deal with.

India is countering the challenges of polio eradication through intensified immunizations with monovalent oral polio vaccine. Because most of the cases reported in 2006 were from poor Muslim communities, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative is working with religious leaders to persuade more families to have their children immunized.

Partly because of the Muslim clerics' support, India reported an overall increase in the turnout of children during Subnational Immunization Days (SNIDs) in July, September, and November.

Indian Rotarians and their international counterparts are closely involved with the heightened immunizations. Robert Hall, past governor of District 6900 (Georgia, USA), led several U.S. Rotarians in the November SNIDs in Uttar Pradesh. The team was encouraged by the collaboration they witnessed among government officials, religious leaders, local Rotarians, UNICEF, and the World Health Organization.

"This trip was the experience of a lifetime for all 20 Rotarians who visited Uttar Pradesh," Hall noted. Pledging the continued support of District 6900 and Rotarians in Zone 34, which includes the Caribbean, Guyana, and Suriname, along with Florida and Georgia, USA, he said he was confident that India would soon eradicate polio.

Major Donors Jim and Donna Philips, whose recent contribution to PolioPlus Partners helped fund the SNIDs, also traveled with the group.

At least nine rounds of National Immunization Days and SNIDs are planned for India this year.

Annan praises Rotary's leadership in global polio effort

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
13 December 2006

In a farewell address on 11 December, outgoing United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan cited Rotary International as an example of a private organization or nonstate actor whose partnership with public agencies helps achieve major social goals.

Speaking at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri, USA, Annan said the "wonderful partnership between the UN family, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control [and Prevention] and, crucially, Rotary International" is close to eradicating polio worldwide.

The UN secretary general explained that he has been guided during his 10-year tenure by the principle that nonstate actors can help the organization accomplish its aims. According

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to Annan, a result of that principle is the Global Compact he made with international business leaders in 1999 to harness private-sector goodwill to meet the challenges of globalization.

It's impossible for governments alone, especially in the face of limited public resources, to solve all humanity's ills, the UN chief noted. Instead, much more can be achieved through public-private partnerships and initiatives, he said.

Annan, who steps down on 31 December, chose the venue of his farewell speech to signal the need for the international community to return to the ideals that inspired world leaders, including U.S. President Harry Truman, and humanitarian organizations to establish the UN after the horrors of two world wars.

More than 40 Rotarians served as advisers, consultants, and delegates at the UN charter conference in 1945. Rotary and the UN have enjoyed a close relationship ever since, with Rotary currently represented at the UN by 23 Rotarians. Rotary also has high-level nongovernmental organization consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, which oversees many specialized UN agencies. In addition, Rotary has its own day at the UN, marked by panel discussions to pinpoint new opportunities for the two organizations to work together.

Cordial relationships among Rotary and UN leaders help strengthen the ties between the organizations. Annan, in particular, has openly expressed his admiration for Rotary's educational and humanitarian initiatives.

On 4 November, for example, the UN chief acknowledged Rotary's invaluable partnership to hundreds of Rotarians gathered at UN headquarters in New York to celebrate Rotary-UN Day.

He said in a written statement, "Rotary is living proof that people with diverse backgrounds can learn to get along with each other and concentrate more on the things we have in common, rather than on the things that drive us apart."

U.S. official, nonprofit chief call for more polio support

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
5 December 2006

Two U.S. leaders are urging more public and private commitment and support for polio eradication.

Paula J. Dobriansky, undersecretary of state for democracy and global affairs, and Timothy E. Wirth, president of the United Nations Foundation, made the call in an editorial they coauthored in the *Washington Times*.

"It is time for the international community to finish the job of eradicating polio," they said in the piece, which appeared in the 23 November edition of the Washington, D.C., paper. "To do that requires strengthened commitment, enhanced cooperation and community involvement."

Dobriansky and Wirth noted that in the United States, government and private organizations have already greatly contributed to efforts that have made the world 99 percent polio-

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free. For example, the UN Foundation, other nonprofit organizations, and individuals have joined the growing number of supporters of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. U.S. government backing includes total contributions of more than \$1.2 billion since the initiative's launch.

"The United States is working through the G-8 and other forums to ensure the support of world leaders and address the \$50 million funding gap this year, and the even bigger projected shortfall for 2007-2008," they said.

In their account of the initiative's 18-year history of remarkable success, the authors acknowledged Rotary's unflagging support. "Rotary International has continued its key role, and has provided hundreds of millions of dollars," they said.

According to Dobriansky and Wirth, international cooperation, as well as a higher level of participation by communities and governments in polio-endemic countries, will be vital in finally getting rid of the disease. Now, only Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan are still polio-endemic.

"Local political and religious figures have a crucial role to play in disseminating helpful information, dispelling myths and instilling confidence in communities regarding immunization," they observed. "National and world leaders, both secular and religious, must reach out to the communities affected by polio and urge local leaders to support vaccination efforts."

New WHO chief is committed to polio eradication

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News
9 January 2007

Newly appointed World Health Organization Director-General Margaret Chan has pledged to press ahead with the goal of achieving a polio-free world.

"We will complete polio eradication," she vowed in her acceptance speech to the World Health Assembly in Geneva, 9 November.

WHO is the lead technical agency in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which also includes partners Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

HIV/AIDS, Ebola, SARS, avian influenza, malaria, tuberculosis, heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, mental illness, and obesity were also on the new director-general's list of global health concerns that require commitment and resources.

"In leading WHO, I will, like all my predecessors, need to manage three main sets of issues: technical, administrative, and political," she said. "In doing so, I will leave my personal stamp. It is this: I am determined to attain results for health."

Chan, from Hong Kong, previously served as the WHO assistant director-general for communicable diseases and a representative of the director-general for pandemic influenza. Her commitment to polio eradication was shared by her predecessor, Lee Jong-wook, who died suddenly in May.