

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Calendar

February 21- 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

Ellyn W. Ogden, MPH

Worldwide Polio Eradication Coordinator  
US Agency for International Development

Since 1997, Ellyn has been responsible for USAID's polio eradication program, and related immunization and disease control efforts, in over 40 countries in Africa, South Asia, the Newly Independent States



of the Former Soviet Union, and the Near East. As the project manager for grants to WHO, UNICEF and NGOs working in polio eradication and maternal and child health, Ms. Ogden is responsible for a 15 year budget of \$750 million. Through this portfolio, Ms. Ogden fosters close linkages between organizations working on polio and broader child health problems. Recognizing the need for equity and access to health services for all children, Ms. Ogden has directed special attention to children in conflict countries and among marginalized or under-served communities. A graduate of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Ellyn has over 20 years of international public health experience in the areas of child survival, disease prevention and control, nutrition and health and human rights. During her career, Ms Ogden has served as a Peace Corps health volunteer in Papua New Guinea, a John's Hopkins University Health and Child Survival Fellow, and a Senior Technical Advisor in AIDS and Child Survival. In 2002, Ms Ogden was selected to receive a "Sustained Outstanding Performance" Award by USAID for management and technical oversight of the Agency's Polio Eradication Program. In 2006, Rotary International presented her with the prestigious "Paul Harris Fellows Award" for Humanitarian Service. Ellyn is married and the mother of two energetic boys.

February 28 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

March 6 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

March 11 - 7pm Manna Food Center

March 13 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

March 20 - 6:30pm Meeting-Hunters Inn

March 29 - 9am Rotary District

Mini-Summit on Literacy, Rockville Library

March 29 - International Night

at the Hungarian Embassy

## Rotarians Celebrate Valentine's Day



Several Rotarians brought their sweethearts to the Valentine's Day Rotary Club social last week to enjoy finger foods, wine and fellowship. Our newest Rotarian **George Mattamal** introduced his wife **Martha**. President-Elect **Todd Nitkin** was sporting a heart made by his four-year old daughter.

## Manna Receives \$1500 from Rotary



**Alex Naron** presented a check for \$1500 to Manna Board member Jeff Miller at the Tuesday food packing.

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## Trustee Chair Sounds The Call To Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News - 14 February 2008

When the conversation turns to polio, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair Robert S. Scott is passionate about putting an end to the disease, and he believes Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge will play a key role.

Scott, who also chairs the International PolioPlus Committee, spoke about the challenge during a recent Rotary media interview. The challenge is Rotary's three-year fundraising effort to match the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US\$100 million grant to The Rotary Foundation for polio eradication.

"Each Rotary club is being asked to contribute at least \$1,000 annually to the challenge for the next three years," Scott said. "If you consider there are nearly 33,000 clubs in the world, their combined fundraising efforts would result in almost the full matching amount of \$100 million."

All Rotarians are invited to participate in the challenge, especially those who have joined Rotary since June 2005, when the last commitments to the previous polio eradication funding campaign were fulfilled. Rotary clubs chartered since that time are also a special focus.



## The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual International Night

sponsored by the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club  
Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM

at  
The Embassy of Hungary  
3910 Shoemaker St., NW, Washington, DC 20008

*Please join us in  
honoring the area's  
Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars*

**Students representing:**  
Congo, France, Italy, Japan, Korea

**and attending the following universities:**  
American, George Washington, Georgetown, Howard, Maryland

**will present on:**  
What they liked and what they learned.  
What the program meant to them.  
Their impressions of the area and their plans.

Enjoy French/Mediterranean/International Cuisine & wine

RSVP before March 9, 2008. Attendance is limited  
\$60 per person  
with checks to Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club  
PO Box 59311, Potomac, MD 20859-9311  
Information [www.pb-rotary.org](http://www.pb-rotary.org)  
Questions: [rotary.pb@gmail.com](mailto:rotary.pb@gmail.com)



"PolioPlus is Rotary's only corporate program, and I believe that all Rotarians will want to share in the legacy of wiping out a disease that has caused so much disability and death worldwide," Scott said. He added that Rotary Fellowships, Rotarian Action Groups, Rotary Foundation alumni, Rotaractors, and Interactors are also being invited to participate.

Although Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge began 1 January, contributions started coming in earlier and have been credited since 1 December 2007. Rotary has until 31

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December 2010 to match the Gates Foundation challenge grant. Contributions will be eligible for Paul Harris Fellow and other standard recognition, but no new recognition will be available.

Several resources are being produced to help Rotarians meet the challenge, including a DVD, PowerPoint presentation, brochure, and sample press releases. The tools will be available on the RI Web site and from RI headquarters and international offices. A task force is also providing oversight and direction to clubs and districts.

"Many Rotarians are also asking if Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge is designed to supersede Every Rotarian, Every Year and the Rotary Centers Major Gifts Initiative," Scott said. "The answer is no. Each effort is equally important, and Rotary is fully committed to funding all three."

Will the Gates Foundation grant and Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge cover the cost of eradicating polio?

"The \$200 million that will be generated will be a vital catalyst in support of polio eradication," Scott said. "However, more will be needed to finish the job. Rotary along with its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative - the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and now the Gates Foundation - must continue to be advocates for donor nation support to help fund the push to finish polio once and for all."

## Google Gives Rotary US\$3.5 Million To Help End Polio

By Dan Nixon RI News - 14 February 2008

Rotary International has received a US\$3.5 million challenge grant from the Google Foundation, a nonprofit managed by Google.org, in support of Rotary's top goal to eradicate polio worldwide. Rotary will raise funds to match the Google Foundation grant dollar-for-dollar over one year.

The grant and matching funds will directly support polio immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a partnership spearheaded by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Following the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$100 million grant to Rotary in November, Google.org represents another response to the call for support by Rotary and its partners to finish polio," says Dr. Robert S. Scott, trustee chair of The Rotary Foundation. "Both challenge grants reflect strong confidence in Rotary's leadership role in working relentlessly to help achieve this vital public health goal for the world's children."

Eradicating polio has been Rotary's number-one priority since 1985. To date, Rotary has helped immunize nearly two billion children and contributed \$650 million to the GPEI, a figure that will rise to more than \$850 million

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by the time the world is certified polio-free.

Globally, the number of polio cases has fallen from 350,000 annually in the mid-1980s to approximately 2,000 cases in 2006. The GPEI has succeeded in slashing the number of cases by 99 percent and decreased the number of polio-endemic countries from 125 to just 4: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

"This grant comes at a crucial time for the initiative, as more funds are needed to reach children in the most challenging regions of the world," says RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson. "We have the technical tools to beat polio, and we're almost there. All we need is for the rest of the world to follow the Google Foundation's lead in supporting the effort to eradicate this vaccine-preventable disease once and for all."

## **Scholars Help Argentine Students Tap The Power Of Learning**

By Dan Nixon RI News - 13 February 2008



Students welcome Tanner Wells and Kimberly Berls (back row) to the Aguada de Guerra school. *Photo courtesy of Project Patagonia.*

Southern Argentina's rugged Patagonian region almost left two service-minded Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars in the dust in December. U.S. students Kimberly Berls and Tanner Wells got their fill of the stuff during a 20-hour bus ride, followed by 6 hours in a car, from Buenos Aires to Río Negro province.

"We had the windows closed the whole time, but somehow the dust still covered the inside of the car, filling our shoes to the point we had to dump [it] out of them," Berls says.

But the dust wasn't enough to deter her and Wells from delivering computer software, printer cartridges, a DVD player, DVDs, children's books, and other materials to the Aguada de Guerra school as part of Project Patagonia. They also led the schoolchildren in a geography game and writing pen-pal letters to a fifth grade class in Ohio, USA, taught by Janet Pierce, the mother of fellow Rotary Scholar Emily Pierce. Later, the two delivered 10 boxes of nonperishable food, cooking and eating utensils, children's books, and other items for the Niñas de Ayouma school.

Berls, Wells, and fellow Rotary Scholars Emily Pierce and Christopher Tepper came up with the idea for the World Community Service (WCS) project to encourage literacy and promote world understanding. With help from the Rotary clubs of Puerto Madero, Buenos Aires, and Gainesville-Haymarket, Virginia, the four scholars raised US\$8,401 in project funding from 45 clubs.

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In March, Pierce and Tepper carried out the second phase of the project: delivering five computers, educational software, and library books to Aguada de Guerra. They also taught the students how to use their new resources.

"Seeing the faces of the students, teachers, and parents when the computers were delivered was truly all the reward necessary," Tepper says. "We've also provided globes, world maps, and made presentations about Rotary and its mission of world peace."

Future plans include linking the school to the Internet, providing printers for its computer lab, and expanding the project to reach nine other schools.

"Within a few months, four scholars suddenly equaled 45 Rotary clubs in five Rotary districts on two continents, the Rotary International WCS office, two happy communities, and 80 rural Argentine children," wrote Pierce and George Layne, of the Gainesville-Haymarket club, in District 7610's January newsletter.

*[This article appeared in the 2007 October issue of Rotary World]*

## Rotary Images Now Available Online

By Antoinette Tuscano RI News 12 February

*Music classes at The Padre Francisco De Motta school, the site of numerous Rotary Foundation Matching Grants. Photo courtesy Rotary Images.*



A new feature on the redesigned RI Web site allows Rotarians to search and access thousands of photographs that bring Rotary's stories to life. Called Rotary Images, it's a library of pictures that every Rotarian can use.

This resource allows users to download photos from RI photographers and Rotary's archives. These high-quality pictures, which RI owns, can help Rotarians enhance their club's Web site, print publications, and public relations efforts.

Photographs are searchable by general category, keyword, project name, and description, making it easy for you to locate images of service projects from around the world, RI conventions, Rotary leaders, historic events, and more.

Currently, they're especially interested in taking photos about the following topics:

- ✓ Rotary World Peace Fellows
- ✓ Alternative energy projects
- ✓ Rotary Volunteers
- ✓ Mosquito-netting projects
- ✓ Club pride

**Please send news articles and photos to [BobNelson20854@yahoo.com](mailto:BobNelson20854@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the newsletter**

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