

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

Rotary Club Calendar

November is Rotary Foundation Month

- November 6 – 12:30pm - Dictionary Project at
Seven Locks Elementary School
- November 6 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
Club Assembly
- November 11 – 7pm Manna Food Center
614 Lofstrand Lane, Rockville
- November 13 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
Zoltan Feher, JD, Chief Creative Officer
Press and Media Attaché, Embassy of Hungary
- November 15 – Hunger Summit at BWI Ramada
Steve Naron speaking on the Manna Food Center
- November 20 – 6:30pm Social–Hunters Inn
- November 21 – 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Poolesville Elementary School
- November 25 – 2pm - Dictionary Project at
Bells Mill Elementary School
- November 27 – No meeting
- December 4 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
- December 10 – 6pm Feeding the Homeless
at Sophia House
- December 11 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
Hilltop Micro-finance Initiative
- December 18 – 6:30pm Meeting–Hunters Inn
- December 25 – No meeting

Steve Naron Biked the 185 Mile C&O Canal

Steve Naron gave a beautifully illustrated presentation of his 185 mile bicycle trip along the C&O canal from Cumberland to Georgetown. The group included Steve's brother Paul and wife Teresa, and Laura and Steve. The trip took four days with overnights in Paw Paw, WV, Hancock, MD, and Sheperdstown, WV. Overall it was an easy, beautiful ride with friendly, helpful people along the way ([see full page of photos on page 2](#)). The C&O has the largest number of visitors of any national park. George Washington initiated the canal with the goal to tie states together, but the Baltimore merchants started a railroad on the same day. The canal construction



stopped at Cumberland since the railroad had already passed that point and the better technology prevailed. Here are some tips from Steve for those who may want to make the trip: take a water backpack; have a comfortable seat on the bike with good carrying cases; and give yourself extra time to explore the Canal and towns. The most significant challenges: the lock that held bikes together was difficult to open; mud on trail on the first day; two of the riders fell (with no injuries); turned the wrong way off trail to find Paw Paw, WV; and trying to keeping eye on trail for rocks, because of the amazing beauty along the path.



Bring the Whole Family to Pack Boxes at Manna Food Center Tuesday November 11

The next Manna Food packing evening is coming up this Tuesday at 7pm and as you can see from the accompanying photos, it's fun for the entire family. **President Todd** brought **Hibst** and their daughters to pitch in. "Many hands make light work", so come to Manna at 614 Lofstrand Lane Rockville Tuesday night.



Noel Howard Attends Pre-PETS Training

Nearly 60 Presidents-Elect and Assistant Governors attended the first Pre-PETS on Saturday, November 1. Topics included Rotary Club President as CEO, Membership Retention and Club Meetings.

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CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL

ONE OF THE BEST PRESERVED AND LEAST ALTERED OF OLD AMERICAN CANALS THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO GREW FROM WASHINGTON'S VISION OF LINKING THE VALLEYS OF THE EARLY WEST WITH THE EAST BY TIES OF COMMUNICATION. THE POTOMAC COMPANY FOSTERED BY WASHINGTON TO IMPROVE NAVIGATION OF THE POTOMAC TRANSFERRED ITS RIGHTS IN 1838 TO THE CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO COMPANY ORGANIZED TO CONNECT THE OHIO AT PITTSBURG WITH GEORGETOWN BY A CONTINUOUS CANAL. IN OCTOBER 1850 AFTER 185 MILES WERE BUILT THE CONSTRUCTION CEASED AT CUMBERLAND UNTIL 1924 TRADE CONTINUED ON THE OLD CANAL. TODAY IT IS A MEMORIAL TO NATIONAL PROGRESS AND THE CANAL ERA.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



Biking the C&O Canal by Steve Naron

Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News



RI President's Message Rotary Foundation Month

Dear fellow Rotarians,
The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the

alleviation of poverty.

It sounds so simple, yet it means so much.

It means so much to every one of the people touched by Foundation-supported programs every year – the children too poor to go to school, the families who have lost everything in a disaster, the communities that lack sanitation, clean water, and medical care.

It means so much to the two billion children now living lives free from polio. Because of the work that the Foundation has helped support, five million cases of paralysis and more than 250,000 deaths from polio have been prevented.

Today, we are in what we hope will be the last stages of the fight against polio. All of you have helped through your support of our Foundation. Through the Foundation, we are able to be part of the day-to-day work of polio eradication by helping supply the transportation, the fliers, the advertisements, and even the lollipops to ensure we reach all children with the essential oral polio vaccine and make each round of immunization a success.

Those of you who have participated in a National Immunization Day know exactly what I'm talking about when I say there's nothing like it – nothing like knowing you're being a part of saving lives and making history. And if you can't be there yourself, then being part of the work through our Foundation is the next best thing.

Why do we have a Foundation? We have a Foundation because our Foundation lifts Rotary up. It lets every club and every district do the most it possibly can. It allows every one of us to be part of all of Rotary's work, and it brings that work to greater and greater heights.

As we celebrate Rotary Foundation Month, we should all remember that The Rotary Foundation is our

Foundation. It's here for us and because of us; it allows us to do more, to be more, and to bring more hope to the world. The responsibility for keeping our Foundation strong lies with each of us.

Dong Kurn (D.K.) Lee
President, Rotary International

Celebrate the Foundation this Month: Message from Chair Jonathan Majiyagbe



Dear family of Rotary,
November is a very special month on my personal Rotary calendar, and I hope that you share my enthusiasm. All

Rotarians can take great pride in the achievements of our Foundation, from our work for polio eradication to our Rotary Centers for International Studies to projects that improve lives every day. And now, we are building on those efforts through our Future Vision Plan.

As a Nigerian, I have seen how The Rotary Foundation is making a difference in my homeland. As Rotary Foundation chair, I have the opportunity to see our Foundation in action throughout the world. I can assure you that your generous contributions to the Annual Programs Fund and Permanent Fund are doing good in myriad ways.

But our contributions to the Foundation go beyond financial support. Rotarian doctors and dentists are serving as volunteers to bring health care to remote, underserved areas. Rotarian families are welcoming Ambassadorial Scholars and Group Study Exchange teams into their homes, establishing lasting international friendships. And millions of children are receiving the precious polio vaccine during National Immunization Days that Rotarians help organize, promote, and carry out with an eye on good stewardship practices.

As you observe Rotary Foundation Month, keep in mind the many ways that you can contribute. Through our combined support, the Foundation will continue to do good in the world for decades to come.

Jonathan Majiyagbe
Foundation Trustee Chair

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End Polio Now Exhibit Opens

By Dan Nixon RI News – 30 October 2008



[Left] Samuel Owori, Uganda, RI representative to the UN Economic Commission of Africa and a member of the African Regional PolioPlus Committee and Henry Kyemba, Uganda, RI representative to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, check out the End Polio Now exhibit unveiled 27 October in the lobby of Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA. [Right] RI President Dong Kurn Lee welcomes visitors to the opening of the exhibit. Photos by Alyce Henson/Rotary Images

Rotarians have traveled by car, bicycle, boat, even camel to immunize children around the world against polio.

Their stories and the global initiative to eradicate the crippling disease are compellingly told in the exhibit "End Polio Now," unveiled on 27 October at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

"This exhibit serves as a reminder to those who live in a polio-free world about the suffering of those who do not," Rotary Foundation Trustee Vice Chair Ron Burton told the gathering at the exhibit's unveiling.

On hand were the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, Major Donors, Rotary representatives to the United Nations, and the senior adviser in the Global Health Program of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Cheryl Scott, as well as the media.

Burton called the exhibit "a tribute to the will and determination of the world's 1.2 million Rotarians" in raising hundreds of millions of dollars to help vaccinate two billion children against polio, promoting and participating in National Immunization Days, and

raising more than \$4 billion from the public sector through advocacy with governments.

"This exhibit tells their story, a story of perseverance and hope in the face of financial, political, technical, and geographic obstacles," Burton said.

The story unfolds on the exhibit's 12 large panels, with titles such as "Mobilize to Immunize," "Rotary Responds," "Tracking the Wild Virus," and "A World without Polio." Also featured are a continuous DVD presentation and a display case containing a few of the numerous awards that Rotary has received in recognition of its leadership role in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Two other cases feature items used to promote and carry out National Immunization Days, such as a Rotary volunteer's cap, a Kick Polio Out of Africa soccer ball, a PolioPlus banner, and a cold box for transporting oral polio vaccine.

US\$100 Million Challenge

The exhibit's last panel highlights Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge in response to the Gates Foundation challenge grant for polio eradication. Visitors can use

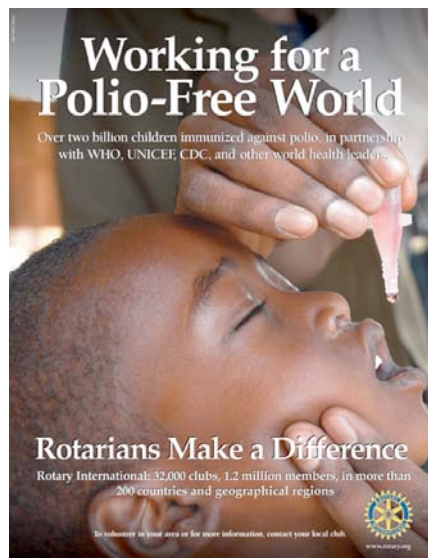
an electronic kiosk in front of the panel to donate to the fundraising challenge.

"We have brought the world closer to the end of a disease and to the achievement of the fourth [UN] Millennium Development Goal: reducing child mortality," said RI President Dong Kurn Lee. "Rotary is committed to ending polio and to building the healthier, safer, and more peaceful world of which we all dream."

RI General Secretary Ed Futa joined Lee in cutting a ribbon to officially open the exhibit.

"This exhibit will be installed here for the coming five years," Futa said. "We will be updating it as contributions to Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge continue to come in and as the number of polio-endemic countries decreases.

"We hope that school groups and other community members will view the exhibit and learn more about the problem of polio and Rotary's work to eradicate the disease," he added.



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Progress on Polio Eradication

After 20 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all. It is a window of opportunity of historic proportions.

Your contribution will help Rotary match a \$100 million challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$200 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

Country	# Polio Cases in 2008*	# Polio Cases in 2007
Nigeria	736	285
India	496	874
Pakistan	87	32
Angola	25	9
Chad	26	22
Afghanistan	22	17
Others	39	76
World Total	1431	1315

* As of 28 October 2008

What exactly is polio?

- A crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease, polio (poliomyelitis) still strikes children mainly under the age of five in countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
- Polio can cause paralysis and sometimes death. Because there is no cure for polio, the best protection is prevention. For as little as sixty cents worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life.
- It can cause paralysis within hours, and polio paralysis is almost always irreversible.
- In the most severe cases, polio attacks the motor neurons of the brain stem, causing breathing difficulty or even death.
- Historically, polio has been the world's greatest cause of disability.



If polio isn't eradicated, the world will continue to live under the threat of the disease. More than 10 million children will be paralyzed in the next 40 years if the world fails to capitalize on its US\$4 billion global investment in eradication.

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.

Major Gifts to Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge*

Amount	Number of gifts
\$100,000 or more	14
\$25,000 or more	16
\$10,000 or more	61
Total	91

*As of 15 September 2008

Help meet the challenge:

- ✓ Donate at rotary.org/endpolio
- ✓ Add a link to your website
- ✓ Publicize at fundraising events
- ✓ Order free "End Polio Now" buttons
- ✓ Order free Rotary's US\$100M Challenge Poster
- ✓ Orders can be placed online at shop.rotary.org



Donate now to help Rotary achieve a polio-free world.

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