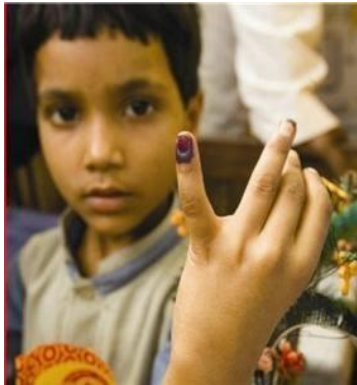


Purple Pinkie for Polio



Polio has no cure. It is a crippling and potentially fatal disease, and children under the age of five are at the greatest risk. While there is no cure, there is prevention. For as little as \$1.00, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life. The purpose of Purple Pinkie for Polio Day is twofold: to raise the funds needed to finish the job of eradicating polio, and to raise awareness about the seriousness of this disease, and how we can prevent it. Polio has been eradicated in all but two countries. If polio isn't eradicated, the world will continue to live under the threat of this crippling disease.

When a child is vaccinated in poorer countries, the vaccinator paints indelible purple ink on to the little finger (pinkie) nail of the left hand. Before giving a vaccine, this finger is checked to see if that child was recently vaccinated. If the finger is not purple then they can have the vaccine

The **Purple Pinkie Day Campaign** will be divided into two parts, the Street Appeal and the Purple Pinkie in school.

The **Purple Pinkie Street Appeal** on or about 24 October 2017 will have Rotarians gather outside Shops around the Blue Mountains, providing information and collecting donations

Purple Pinkie in School will see Rotarians visiting schools to educate children about polio and supporting a gold coin donation day combined with a purple mufti day.

This Purple Pinkie Day comes at an important time in the fight to eradicate polio, which would be only the second human disease to be eradicated, after smallpox. Currently there are only three polio endemic countries: Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 1988, when Rotary and its partners committed to eradicating the disease, polio paralysed more than 350,000 children per year in 125 countries – or, more than 1,000 per day. Since that time, the number of polio cases has been reduced by 99.9%, with only 11 cases in two countries (Pakistan and Afghanistan) to date in 2017.

Rotary has contributed more than US\$1.4 billion to ending polio. Funds contributed to Rotary are tripled thanks to a 2:1 match by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Rotary is joined in the fight to end polio by its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a public-private partnership that also includes the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.