

# Rotary

## Club of Sedona Village

News Release

Contact: Chuck Marr, [cmarr2@icloud.com](mailto:cmarr2@icloud.com)

### **Rotary Combats Polio**

The Rotary Clubs in the Verde Valley will mark historic progress toward a polio-free world this week. Spreading rapidly world wide seventy years ago, the polio virus impacted thousands of lives, especially children, until a vaccine was developed by Dr. Jonas Salk.

When Rotary and its partners launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries every year. We've made great progress against the disease since then. Today, polio cases have been reduced by 99.9 percent, and just two countries continue to report cases of wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan. And we remain committed to the end.

With polio nearly eradicated, Rotary and its partners must sustain this progress and continue to reach every child with the polio vaccine. Without full funding and political commitment, this paralyzing disease could return to polio-free countries, putting children everywhere at risk. Rotary has committed to raising US\$50 million each year to support global polio eradication efforts. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged to match that 2-to-1, for a total yearly contribution of \$150 million.

“Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion to ending polio since 1985, including thousands of dollars donated by area Rotary Clubs and their members” commented Jennette Bill, Chair of the Rotary Club of Sedona Village.

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities around the globe. For more than 110 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to improve lives through service. From promoting literacy and peace to providing clean water and

improving health care, Rotary members are always working to better the world.  
Visit [endpolio.org](http://endpolio.org) to learn more about Rotary and the fight to eradicate polio.

