



November 2023

CLUB NEWSLETTER

Nechicagolandpassport.org

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Club In Action during End Polio Now Week

Reported by Club President Dr. Robert Steinberg

Saturday morning, October 28th was sunny and dry with an east wind blowing off Lake Michigan. It was the first REALLY chilly morning – with a temperature of 36 degrees!



Nevertheless, four of our club members, who happen to serve on our Board, met for a service project to inform non-Rotarians about Rotary's End Polio Now Campaign.



Armed with heavy sweaters and gloves, EPN stickers and information flyers, with our bright red EPN shirts covering our warm clothing, we set out to meet as many people (and dogs) as possible on the streets of Highland Park. (NOTE – our club doesn't have one town to call home – we serve the entire District 6440 geographical area – partnering with other District 6440 clubs whenever possible.) Our mission was to ask everyone we met whether they knew about Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio, and tell them about our progress.

Club Leaders

President

Dr. Robert Steinberg

President Elect

Rebecca Tanaka

Secretary

Ellen Young

Treasurer:

Katherine Buggenhagen

Membership:

Dr. Robert Steinberg

International Service

Dessie Panomitros

Rotary Foundation

Katherine Buggenhagen

PR & Marketing

Marianna Zeidler



Though some residents took out their wallets, we were not (nor could we be) fundraising. But as we meandered through Highland Park's shopping district, we met many folks who clearly remembered what it was like when they were little, new moms not quite understanding why their children still needed to be vaccinated for polio, and many who had friends and acquaintances who had polio as children. More than we expected to hear about.

One story stood out. We met one elderly woman and her daughter who told us a bit about their life in Ukraine during and after World War II. She and her husband had been born in Germany but ended up in Ukraine when the fighting started. Her husband was a pediatrician. The woman teared up when speaking about how frustrated and helpless her husband felt when trying to treat his little polio patients – it affected us too as we comforted her. But the reassurance that the cases were now down to 9 worldwide, and Rotary's worldwide vaccination of children lifted her spirits – and we said our farewells and moved on.

We probably saw over 50 folks on the streets of Highland Park today, and several more in the restaurant afterwards, including our US Congressman, who was aware of Rotary's polio efforts. He thanked us for our outreach to the Highland Park Community.

Taking our EPN message to the wider non-Rotarian community energized us. And makes us even more determined to share Rotary's message of hope and action to more communities and non-Rotarians through service project participation in the coming months. Stay tuned!

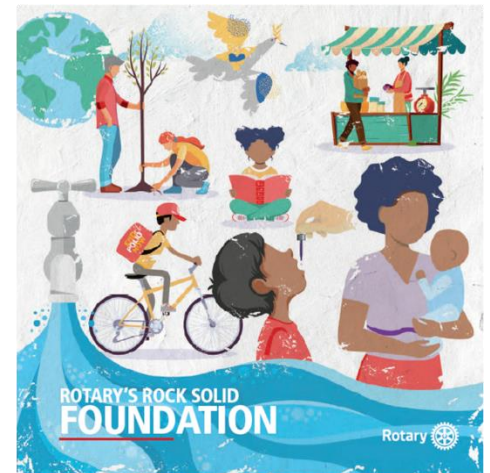
November is Rotary Foundation Month

As Rotary's one and only charity, [The Rotary Foundation](#) (TRF) taps into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money and expertise into priorities that align with [our seven areas of focus](#) and [Foundation grants](#) empower Rotarians to approach problems such as disease, poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact.

The Rotary Foundation is known throughout the world for its exceptional financial management and for the efficient use of its donations. Every year since 2008, [TRF has received the top four-star rating from Charity Navigator](#), the world's largest and most trusted charity evaluator. This [rating](#) is a standard achieved by only one percent of charities for judicious care of donors' money.

The Rotary Foundation is a non-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions. The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

A major recipient of donations to TRF is the [Annual SHARE Fund](#). When we donate, half our contributions are directed to the District Fund and the other half to the World Fund. Both help support and enable Rotary projects to become a reality through global and district grants. **For their contributions to the Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund, exceeding \$1,000, Donors earn recognitions as Paul Harris Fellows, Major Donors, and Arch Klump Society members.**



Coats for Round Lake New Arrivals

Thanks to club members **Christina Anez, Happie Datt**, an anonymous donor, and other Rotarians, over 60 coats have been delivered to needy families in the Round Lake area. Contributions are still being accepted as the need for warm coats persists.

No contribution is too small! THANK YOU!



Plan for the next 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore | May 25 – 29, 2024

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