[Club Logo or Letterhead]

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

News Release

For Immediate Use

For further information please contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The [Rotary Club Name] Joins in World Polio Week Efforts**

**With the Aim of the Complete Eradication of Polio**

[Please feel free to ‘localize’ the headline!]

The [Rotary Club Name] is joining with the World Health Organization and Rotary clubs around the world in the **End Polio NOW** campaign, proclaiming October 24 – 28th as World Polio Week, and October 24, 2022 as World Polio Day.

In addition to observances around the country and globally, the club is drawing attention to the effort by [ *fill in the blank!]* and [ *fill in the blank!]*

Polio is an infectious disease that cripples and kills, most commonly affecting children under the age of five. As recently as 1988, there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries worldwide. That’s when Rotary International partnered with the World Health Organization to launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Since that time, with significant help from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, cases worldwide have been reduced by 99.9% In August of this year, the continent of Africa was declared polio-free by the World Health Organization, leaving only Pakistan and Afghanistan as polio-endemic countries.

Over the years, Rotarians have helped to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries and have contributed more than $1.8 billion toward vaccination efforts. Without these efforts, an estimated 17 million people would have contracted the disease.

Today, we’re *“ThisClose”* to eradicating this dreaded disease from the face of the earth.

However, according to the World Health Organization, as long as a single child remains infected, failure to complete the effort could result in as many as 200,000 new cases every year, within 10 years, all over the world.

For additional information, or to join in the fight against polio, contact the [Rotary club name and phone number].

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