

# **“END POLIO NOW” Educational Brochure**

In 1988 there were 125 Polio Endemic countries and 71 Polio free countries in the world. Thanks to the leadership of Rotary International, in 2012 we had 3 Polio Endemic countries and 193 Polio Free countries. There were fewer than 250 reported cases compared with 350,000 cases in 1985 when Rotary International began the fight to end polio.

Polio cases have declined rapidly since 1985, but the fight isn't over. Polio is a crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease and for as little as US \$0.60 a child can be protected against the virus for life. If we don't finish the fight right now more than 10 million children under the age of five could be paralyzed by polio in the next 40 years.

The fight to end polio is led by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Rotary International spear headed the Initiative along with, UNICEF, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and governments of the world with the support of many others around the globe. Rotarians have committed countless volunteer hours to fight polio. In addition to contributing US \$1.2 billion to the GPEI Rotary has helped secure over US \$9 billion from donor governments since the initiative began.



## **Why donate to Global Polio Eradication Initiative?**

- Polio anywhere is a risk to children everywhere. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is committed to fighting the disease until every child is safe.
- This is our chance to make history by wiping out the second human disease ever. **Globally, we are “this close” to ending polio.**
- Since the global initiative began more than 25 years Rotary and its partners have reduced polio cases by more than 99 percent worldwide.
- There are only three countries where the wild poliovirus has never been stopped: Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is matching two-for-one to make our every dollar work harder. \$35 million becomes \$105 million yearly!



**FINISH THE FIGHT. HELP ROTARY MAKE THE FINAL PUSH TO ERADICATE POLIO WORLDWIDE. Please donate by writing a check to: The Rotary Foundation and mail it to: 14280 Collections Center Drive - Chicago, IL 60693, USA**



# TOP 5 REASONS TO ERADICATE POLIO

- 1. THE HUMAN COST:** If we choose to control polio rather than eradicate it, polio could rebound to 10 million cases in the next 40 years.
- 2. IT'S ACHIEVABLE:** We have the tools to end polio and the means to reach all children. The new, bivalent vaccine successfully targets the two remaining strains of polio in one dose.
- 3. IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT:** An independent study published in the medical journal *Vaccine* estimates the \$9 billion global investment in a polio-free world will net an economic benefit of \$40 to 50 billion over the next 20 years.
- 4. IT STRENGTHENS THE SYSTEM:** Our polio eradication efforts have established an active disease surveillance network in all countries that is being used for other health interventions such as measles vaccinations, deworming tablets, and mosquito bed nets.
- 5. IT SETS THE STAGE:** The ability to reach all children with the polio vaccine is proof of concept that we can succeed on our next major global health initiative.

## **Rotary's Efforts to Eradicate Polio Over the Years**

**1979:** Rotary clubs take on a project to buy and help deliver polio vaccine to more than six million children in the Philippines.

**1985:** Rotary International launches PolioPlus, the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sector support of a public health initiative with an initial pledge of US \$120 million.

**1988:** Rotarians raise US \$247 million for PolioPlus more than double their fundraising goal of \$120 million. The World Health Assembly passes a resolution to eradicate polio, setting up the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. More than 125 countries are polio-endemic.

**1991:** Last case of wild poliovirus in the Americas.

**1994:** The Western Hemisphere is declared polio-free.

**1995:** Rotarians, health workers and volunteers immunize 165 million children in China and India in a single week. Rotary launches the PolioPlus Partners program enabling Rotarians in polio-free countries to provide financial support to their fellow Rotarians in polio-affected countries for immunization campaigns and other polio eradication activities.

**1996:** The number of nations declared polio-free increases to 150. The reported incidence of polio is 85 percent less than in 1988.

**1997:** The last case of wild polio occurs in the Western Pacific Region. She is a 15-month-old girl called Mum Chanty living near Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**2000:** A record 550 million children – almost one-tenth of the world's population – receive the oral polio vaccine. The Western Pacific region, spanning from Australia to China, is declared polio-free.

**2003:** The Rotary Foundation raises US \$119 million from its membership in a 12-month campaign. Rotary's total contribution to polio eradication exceeds \$500 million. Six countries remain polio-endemic – Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria and Pakistan.

**2004:** In Africa, synchronized National Immunization Days in 23 countries target 80 million children, the largest coordinated polio immunization effort on the continent.

**2006:** The number of polio-endemic countries drops to four (Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Pakistan) the lowest in human history at the time.

**2009:** Rotary's overall contribution to the eradication effort nears US \$800 million. In January the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation pledges US \$355 million and issues Rotary a challenge grant of US \$200 million which becomes known as Rotary's \$200 Million Challenge. This announcement will result in a combined US\$555 million in support of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

**2011:** Rotary welcomes celebrities and other major public figures into a new public awareness campaign and ambassador program called "This Close" to ending polio. Program ambassadors include Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu, violinist Itzhak Perlman, golfer Jack Nicklaus, Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, actor Jackie Chan, Grammy Award-winning singers Angelique Kidjo and Ziggy Marley, and environmentalist Dr. Jane Goodall. Rotary's funding for polio eradication exceeds \$1 billion.

**2012:** India surpasses an entire year without a recorded case of polio and is taken off the polio endemic list. Only three countries remain polio endemic. Rotary surpasses its \$200 Million Challenge fundraising goal more than five months earlier than planned.

For further questions you can contact Rotary District Polio Committee members Kim Lampert at 802-779-7194, Nancy Russell at 603-667-7294, David Countway at 603-520-5211, and Venu Rao at 603-566-9441.