# NEWS RELEASE

**Rotary Club of [CITY] celebrates The Rotary Foundation centennial**

**[CITY, COUNTRY, DATE]** — The Rotary Club of [CITY]will host [ACTIVITY/EVENT] on [DATE AND TIME] at [VENUE] to celebrate the centennial of [The Rotary Foundation](https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/rotary-foundation).

[INSERT DESCRIPTION OF EVENT]

The Foundation is the $1 billion charitable arm of Rotary International. To mark the centennial, Rotary aims to raise $300 million by July 2017 for its campaign to eradicate polio and for service in communities around the world.

[INSERT DESCRIPTION OF CLUB PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION]

[INSERT HOW CLUB HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE FOUNDATION]

Established in 1917 with a donation of $26.50, The Rotary Foundation is dedicated to advancing world understanding, goodwill, and peace. Through grants and other resources, Rotary members develop sustainable projects that promote [peace](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/peace-and-conflict-prevention-resolution), fight [disease](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/disease-prevention-and-treatment), provide [clean water](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/water-and-sanitation), support [education](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/basic-education-and-literacy), save [mothers and children](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/maternal-and-child-health), and grow local [economies](https://www.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/economic-and-community-development).

Rotary’s top priority is the global eradication of polio. Rotary launched its polio immunization program, [PolioPlus](http://www.endpolio.org/), in 1985 and in 1988 became a leading partner in the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](http://www.polioeradication.org/) along with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and more recently, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Rotary has contributed more than $1.5 billion and countless volunteer hours to eradicate polio. Through 2018, every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, up to $35 million a year. Since the initiative began, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99.9 percent, from about 350,000 cases a year to less than 71 confirmed in 2015.

[INSERT QUOTE FROM CLUB MEMBER — WHY THEY ARE PROUD OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OR HOW IT HAS SUPPORTED THEIR CLUB PROJECTS]

**About Rotary**

[Rotary](http://www.rotary.org/) brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world’s most pressing humanitarian challenges. Rotary connects 1.2 million members of more than 34,000 Rotary clubs in 200 countries and geographical areas. Their work improves lives at both the local and international levels, from helping families in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit [Rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org/). To access broadcast quality video footage and still photos, go to [The Newsmarket](http://www.thenewsmarket.com/rotaryinternational).

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