



ROTARY
DISTRICT 1130



PolioPlus

A programme of The Rotary Foundation that Supports global polio eradication efforts in Polio endemic countries by conducting National Immunisation Days, monitoring poliovirus Transmission and other activities

April 2006

POLIO NEWS IN BRIEF

POLIOPLUS PARTNERS

Are you having some difficulty in raising the initial contribution of US\$5,000 for a Matching Grant?

Why not instead consider the Open Projects List for a project with PolioPlus Partners?

And what are PolioPlus Partners?

At the RI Convention in Philadelphia in May 1988, the World Health Organisation ambiguously proposed changing Rotary's goal from "control" of polio to "eradication". After a hurried consultation with directors, and trustees, RI President Chuck Keller affirmed Rotary's concurrence and commitment.

As one of ways to keep Rotarians involved RI then created PolioPlus Partners, through which individuals, clubs, or districts, could choose a specific funding need – and so we have the Open Projects List.

The Open Projects List is the primary source of information for PolioPlus Partners Projects. Once the Project has been funded, or the funding deadline has been reached, the entire Project will be removed from the List. This

Open Projects List is updated regularly.

For example, some projects need very ordinary practical items such as:

- Bicycles \$115 each
- Caps \$200 for 95
- Aprons \$500 for 92
- Megaphones, Banners, plastic bags, umbrellas, T-shirts, etc

Imagine what it would mean if all our District Clubs contributed only £250 each – what about it everyone!

And what is PolioPlus Partners?

Unlike Matching Grants, you do not have to find the US\$5,000 as an initial contribution. Matching funds of US\$0.50 per your dollar come from a special Trustee Grant and are available to match direct cash contributions only. Once these funds are fully utilised, contributions will not be matched.

You can choose to support a specific Project or ask that donations be applied to the highest priority.

Contributions in any amount are acceptable; a donor does not need to fund an entire project. Contributions

to PolioPlus Partners are eligible for a Paul Harris Fellow Credit.

Please contact me for further information.

NEW CHALLENGES

New challenges face us, Polio still exists in the world and as the recent imported outbreaks show, it still has the power to come back strong unless we finish the job of eradication.

We are now at the most difficult stage of polio eradication when most of the world is polio free but remains vulnerable to those few remaining countries where it exists.

Importations are the worrying source of polio spreading in to polio-free countries; only recently there has been a scare when polio was found again in the US. A nine year old girl was paralysed by polio in January in Bangladesh and it is felt that the case is genetically related to virus circulating in Uttar Pradesh, India, the first case since August 2000.

And then, whereas the majority of Nigeria is now polio free, the primary challenge still remains in six key states in the North of the country – Bauchi, Borno, Jigaua, Kaduna, Kano, and Katsina. Regrettably, it is from these areas that some other surrounding countries are now reporting importations from Nigeria.

Imported cases now outnumber the polio cases in most countries. Importations will continue to occur until polio is eradicated from every country – they can, and must, be eradicated but it does take time and money.

The active participation of every Rotarian is needed to achieve global polio eradication.

Rotary's challenge is to keep focussed on the goal. After so many years of hard work and fund-raising campaigns, fatigue can so easily set in. It is your job to keep all your fellow members engaged in the battle against polio – we must keep reminding them with the message of PolioPlus.

A QUOTE FROM THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH SPEECH

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Head of the Commonwealth, recently raised polio in her address to Commonwealth countries on Commonwealth Day.

QUOTE

I am pleased that Commonwealth Governments are playing their part in tackling disease and improving health for all. Polio, for example, used to cast its shadow across many countries. Today, thanks to concerted international action, just a handful still need to eliminate polio.

UNQUOTE

Please ensure that a copy of this Polio News in Brief is circulated in your Club.

And, please, continue to forward your club's contributions, marked PolioPlus, to:

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