



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

14 May 2006

POLIO NEWS IN BRIEF

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY SPECIAL

The last two decades have seen Rotary form effective partnerships with a number of significant agencies, such as those in the Polio Eradication Initiative – The World Health Organisation (WHO), The United Nations Childrens' Fund (UNICEF) and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The terror that was polio has all but faded from the memory of some parts of the world. But, poliomyelitis remains a stubbornly contagious and vicious disease striking in a matter of hours a child sometimes going to sleep with nothing more than an achy throat or back then, overnight, the fever comes, the pain in the limbs, and by morning she is unable to move.

Rotary's first polio fundraising campaign which ran from 1986 to 1988, generated much of the energy and enthusiasm that would drive the effort in years to come. By the time the world is certified polio-free Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort will exceed US\$625 million.

As with most things, there always is a practical side-benefit to a project like

PolioPlus. Even if you are unmoved by the relief of incalculable human suffering, consider the lasting health care savings as polio fades away. That is estimated at US\$1.5 billion every year that might be used to address other public health priorities. As the campaign against polio has unfolded, and Rotarians have gone into communities and into homes to administer drops of oral vaccine, they have therefore also helped raise awareness about other public health issues, ranging from basic sanitation to HIV/AIDS.

In some parts of Africa people will not open their doors unless vaccinators are wearing familiar garb, like T-shirts or aprons that identifies them as PolioPlus volunteers.

Funding for the garments, bicycles, inter alia, is provided by the PolioPlus Partners Programme established in 1995 by The Rotary Foundation to help polio endemic and high risk countries obtain tools and supplies necessary for polio eradication. The Programme targets two critical needs:

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- Social mobilisation efforts led by Rotarians and assistance for polio medical officers and epidemiologists. In addition to providing recognisable clothing the Programme funds insulated vaccine carriers called cold boxes; battery operated megaphones to get the word out; and billboards and posters to announce vaccinations. Funds also help provide bicycles, boats and four-wheel-drive vehicles to deliver the vaccine. The equipment PolioPlus Partners provides is likely to be used long after the disease is eliminated.
 - Current projects are listed in the PolioPlus Partners Open Projects List which is available from me. Rotarians can select a project that interests them or allow The Rotary Foundation to apply their contributions where they are needed most.
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The Rotary Foundation matches cash contributions to PolioPlus Partners Projects at the rate of 50c per dollar donated.

Unlike Matching Grants, no basic contribution is required.

Please do contact me for any further information in respect of Rotary's PolioPlus Partners Programme.

But, do keep your club and all its friends continually informed of the PolioPlus Campaign – circulate the monthly Polio News in Brief.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention National Immunisation Days in those countries still carrying out Polio Eradication programmes. If, and when, you should be visiting those countries, you may find it satisfying to offer your Rotary services for two or three days to the local Rotarians during their National Immunisation Days, known as NID's.

You might help in vaccinating the children up to five years of age and then for an hour or two assisting at the health booths or in local travelling, providing the Polio vaccine for use in the area.

As part of their appreciation, for example in India, the Rotarians would offer you 2/3 days home stay at no cost during which they would take you to visit The Taj Mahal and other monuments, or maybe to visit local cities of interest.

If any member should be further interested in such Rotary Service Above Self, please contact me.

Your challenge is to keep as many Rotarians as possible aware of the message of PolioPlus.

AS YOUR CLUB'S CONTRIBUTION TO FOUNDATION BEEN COUNTED YET?

NEWSFLASH !!!!

This last Thursday, 11 May 2006, Luis Vicente Giay, Past President of Rotary International, and Chairman Elect of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, presented The Prime Minister, The Right Honourable Tony Blair PC, MP, with the Rotary International Eradication Champion Award.