

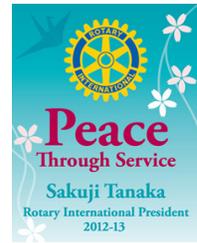


ROTARY CLUB OF WEST EL PASO

P.O. Box 13164 * El Paso, TX 79913

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Hope lies in dreams, in imagination, and in the courage of those who dare to make dreams into reality. Dr. Jonas Salk – Inventor of the Polio Vaccine

November is Rotary Foundation Month – The November 5th meeting will be about the Rotary Foundation, and its efforts to eradicate polio from the face of the Earth.



President's Message (*Polio Eradication – Why it matters?*)

(Excerpts from Rotary's PolioPlus Program Fact Sheet)

Every child deserves the right to walk, run, and play without fear of paralysis. Although polio is largely unknown in industrialized countries, it is a disease that still robs children of that right in other parts of the world. It is transmitted by contaminated water and food supplies, enters through a child's mouth, and then multiplies in the throat and intestines. In a matter of hours the polio virus can enter the brain and spinal cord, destroying the cells that enable muscles to contract and causing paralysis. In 5% to 10% of the cases, the child dies.

The good news is that polio is completely preventable. Since the virus cannot live long outside of the body, the proper immunization of children can not only prevent the disease, it can eradicate it by stopping transmission of the virus. Although polio currently circulates in only a few countries, it is a highly infectious disease and spreads rapidly. As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere are at risk. Only the complete eradication of polio will ensure that no child ever again suffers polio's cruel effects.

On January 21, 2012, the World Health Organization's Executive Board declared the completion of polio eradication a "programmatic emergency for global public health" and requested the WHO Director-General to develop an intensified plan through 2013 to interrupt wild poliovirus (WPV) transmission globally. In response, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has developed a *Global Polio Emergency Action Plan 2012-13*. Its goal is to support transformational change leading to eradication in the three remaining polio-endemic countries: **Nigeria, Pakistan and Afghanistan.**

An unprecedented intensity of polio eradication activities in 2010-11 resulted in several landmark successes. India became polio-free and global cases decreased by 52%; of the four countries with re-established poliovirus transmission, South Sudan and Angola have not recorded a case since June 2009 and July 2011, respectively, while cases fell substantially in the second half of 2011 in Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. All importation-associated outbreaks in eight previously polio-free countries in 2011 were stopped, all but one (in Mali) within six months.

In the three remaining polio-endemic countries, however, polio cases soared from 2010 to 2011 (in Afghanistan by 220%, in Nigeria by 185% and in Pakistan by 37%), with the most dramatic rise in the second half of 2011. Polio also spread internationally from Nigeria and Pakistan, underscoring the risk that endemic poliovirus transmission continues to pose globally.

The PolioPlus program is Rotary's top philanthropic priority. When Rotary launched the program in 1985, there were over 350,000 cases of polio worldwide in more than 125 countries. Since then Rotary has



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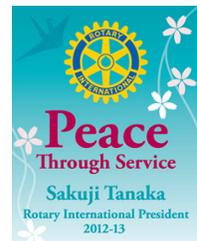


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worked to immunize more than two billion children and reduced the number of polio cases by 99%. To-date the cost of Rotary's eradication efforts have exceeded \$1.2 billion dollars. In addition to their fundraising efforts, Rotary has mobilized hundreds of thousands of volunteers at the local level that are providing support at clinics and special polio eradication activities and national immunization days.

Want more information? Go to <http://thisclose.endpolio.org/en>

Youth Exchange Student Laura Zwanz talks about her home in Austria



You're Invited

Social Night

Thursday – November 8, 2012 – 6:00pm

Joanne & Dave Latimer's Home

53 Kingery Dr.

El Paso, TX

Contact Information: Joanne – Cell: 915-820-2955 Email: jlatimer@tsm-mpi.com

BYOB and a side dish to share with everyone.

Bridges to Prosperity – Trip to Bolivia

If you are interested in traveling to Bolivia as part of a Rotary project team in May 2013 to build a bridge contact Robin French robinfrench@gmail.com



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