



LA MESA

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST EL PASO



SERVICE Above Self

VOLUME 42 Number 10

November 7, 2005

Local and Visiting Rotarians Help Immunize 16 million in Ethiopia

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga Rotary International News • Photos by Petina Dixon/RI

More than 100,000 health workers and volunteers participated in three days of door-to-door national polio immunizations targeting 16 million children under age five in Ethiopia at the end of October.



Ethiopian President Girma Wolde-Giorgis launched the event at the National Palace in the capital, Addis Ababa, on 26 October, two days ahead of the official start date. Regional launches were also organized.

"Ethiopia was polio-free for four consecutive years because of the collaborative efforts exerted by health professionals, partners, and allies both in and outside Ethiopia," said Wolde-Giorgis. "To eradicate polio from Ethiopia, we need the full support and assistance of health workers and [the mobilization of] local human and material resources."

The president commended religious leaders for helping to inform the public in churches, mosques, and other places of worship about the benefits of polio immunization. They were making an important contribution toward advancing children's rights and welfare,

see **Immunize...** next page



November is Foundation Month... Rotary is Humanity in Motion

Frank Devlyn, Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair

As you know, my vocation and passion are helping others, literally, to see. My message to you this Foundation month is one of vision, a vision that Every Rotarian can ensure a better future for all through The Rotary Foundation, Every Year.

Close your eyes for a moment and try to imagine seeing things through the eyes of a little girl from a poor village. After sleeping on a dirt floor, she rises from squalor only to forage for food in a nearby garbage dump. She drinks contaminated water and then is forced to use her little hands to labor 12 to 14 hours or more every day, manufacturing beautiful little dolls.

I wonder what this little girl sees when she looks at those dolls. Does she wonder who is going to play with them? Does she long to play with one herself? Does she dream of growing up to be beautiful like one of the dolls and wearing beautiful clothes? I wonder, will she live long or well enough to see that life can be beautiful? I wonder ...

I also wonder why so many people choose not to see or do anything about the horrific things that are done to children like her all over the world. There are many people who are so blind as to allow such inhumanity to exist.

Fortunately my friends, Rotarians are not so blind. My faith in humanity is renewed when I see all of the good things that Rotary club members are accomplishing around the world, by helping children, helping families, and enabling those we help to help themselves and others.

Still, I wonder how many Rotarians have the clarity of vision to truly understand that it is our Rotary Foundation that is the conduit through which we help others and make significant change. The Rotary Foundation is our path to Humanity in Motion.

Through our literacy programs, we empower children to learn and rise up from poverty. Through our clean water projects, we make a difference so that children in poor villages no longer die of water-borne disease. Through our Ambassadorial Scholars and Rotary World Peace Fellows educational programs, we enlighten the next generation of world leaders to challenge the ravages of war and build bridges of peace and hope that link us all. These programs are made possible by our contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

Foundation Month is not only about the money. It is about you and me taking Service Above Self see **Foundation...** next page

Immunize...

he said, through encouraging society to make immunization a part of Ethiopia's child-rearing culture.

Joined by more than 35 Rotarians from Canada and the United States, members of the country's five Rotary clubs and four Rotaract clubs provided logistical support during the effort.

"We traveled throughout Ethiopia by air and over land," says Ezra Teshome, of the Rotary Club of University District of Seattle, Washington, USA, who led the team from North America. "The Ethiopians [Rotarians and Rotaractors] have done a marvelous job. We kept a very busy schedule, but we had a magnificent time there."

According to Teshome, who is originally from Ethiopia, despite the reinfection of Ethiopia with poliovirus imported from Nigeria, there is much optimism in the country that the disease will soon be eliminated for a second time.

Ethiopia has reported 16 cases so far this year, after having only one case in 2004 and being polio-free in 2003 and 2002.

"There has been that disappointment that this has been going

on longer than expected," says Teshome. "But we are going to work with Nigeria and reinfected African countries, like Sudan, to eradicate the disease. My hope is that we are going to be doing an aggressive job to close this chapter for good."

In addition to Ethiopia, seven other countries — Eritrea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen — held jointly planned, large-scale immunization campaigns in October.

Schoolchildren in Gondar celebrated the kickoff for the national campaign.

On the road between Gondar and Bahir Dar, volunteers make their rounds to reach every child with the vaccine. ■



something as simple as participating in Every Rotarian, Every Year with a contribution to our Rotary Foundation, can be a life-changing event of magnificent proportion in someone's life, in the lives of all children.

We continue to work towards eradicating polio. Why? Because we can. It is Rotary's gift to the children of the world. Yet, so many more needs remain.

Your contributions fuel our life-changing programs. Please be generous this year. Make your Annual Programs Fund gift today and contribute to a positive change.

During Foundation Month, make someone a Paul Harris Fellow or invite a friend to join Rotary so they, too, can share the vision of a more humane and peaceful world through The Rotary Foundation. ■

Foundation...

seriously. It is about taking time to Create Awareness and Take Action by doing something to build goodwill and better friendships.

It is also about having a vision that enables all of us to see that

Rotary Websites
Just click on the blue links below and you will be taken to the site.

Our Club
www.rotarywestelpaso.org

Our Golf Tournament
www.elpasofutures.org

Our District
www.rotary5520.org

Rotary International
www.rotary.org

Rotary e-learning Center
www.rotary.org/training/elearning/index.html

eClubOne
www.rotaryclubone.org

OFFICERS

President	Jim Maxon
President Elect	Ric Ligner
Vice President	Ken Slavin
Secretary	Jesse Allen
Treasurer	Leah Masters
Sergeant at Arms	Teresa Cavaretta
Past President	Rick LoBello

DIRECTORS

Club Service (A)	John Morrison
Club Service (B)	Gary Mundy
Vocational Service	Teo Cafengiu
Community Service (A)	Arlene Carroll
Community Service (B)	Lorraine Huit
International Service	Chava Gonzalez

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Mike Adkins

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Weddell

La Mesa is published by the [Rotary Club of West El Paso, Inc.](http://www.rotaryclubofwestelpaso.org) To subscribe send an e-mail to jallen@reuelgroup.com with "Newsletter Subscription" as the subject.

MEETINGS

Monday: Holiday Inn - Sunland Park, 12 PM

EL PASO MAKEUPS

Tuesday: **East El Paso**, 12 PM

Airport Hilton

Wednesday: **Sunrise**, 7 AM

Sunland Park Holiday Inn

Vista Hills, 12 PM

Vista Hills Country Club

Thursday: **El Paso**, 12 PM

1st Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Anthony, 12 PM

Dos Lagos Golf Club

Franklin Mountains, 5:45 PM

Sunrise Center Furr's Cafeteria

Friday: **Northeast**, 12 PM

Sunrise Center Furr's Cafeteria

JUAREZ MAKEUPS

Tuesday: Juarez Sur, 2:30 PM

Campestre Juarez

Wednesday: Cd. Juarez, 1:30 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Chamizal, 2:00 PM

Rest. Barrigas Monumental

Juarez Americas, 3:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Frontera, 7:30 PM

Rest. Viva Mexico

Thursday: Juarez Paso del Norte, 2:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Empresarial, 2:30 PM

Rest. Barrigas Mon.

Friday: Juarez Industrial, 2:00 PM

Campestre Juarez

Juarez Ejecutivo, 2:00 PM

Mision de Los Lagos

Juarez Norte, 8:30 PM

Casino Juarez

Juarez Oriente, 9:00 PM

Hotel Holiday Inn