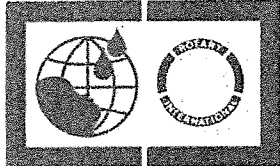


## *The Rise & Fall of Poliomyelitis "Thanks" to Rotary!*

PolioPlus



Rotary International

After more than 20 years of hard work, Rotary and its partners are on the brink of eradicating this tenacious disease, but a strong push is needed now to root it out once and for all. It is a window of opportunity of historic proportions.

***Polio: an acute infectious inflammation of the anterior horns of the spinal cord. When paralysis develops, the muscles atrophy and contract. This can involve the respiratory muscles which cause death. Atrophy of muscles causes deformities. Severe cases develop bronchopneumonia. Epidemics occur and peak during the warmest season. The onset of the disease is abrupt.***

- 1894 ***first reported polio epidemic in USA in Vermont***  
U.S. on the brink of the Spanish American War  
Grover Cleveland was the 20<sup>th</sup> President...  
Cuba was occupied by the USA...Hawaii requested to be annexed to the USA...Strike at Carnegie Steel in Pittsburgh resulted in 10 deaths.
- 1921 9000 cases of polio reported in New York City
- 1928 Franklin Delano Roosevelt diagnosed with polio
- 1952 polio struck a new victim every 10 minutes in the USA
- 1954 worst polio outbreak in the USA...57,879 cases
- 1955 field trial of Jonas Salk vaccine
- 1970 oral polio vaccine developed: became vaccine of choice
- 1979 last case of polio caused by *wild polio virus* in the USA  
Rotary launched Polio immunization campaign in Philippines

- 1980 It is estimated that at its peak of infection, polio paralyzed or killed 500,000 people worldwide per year
- 1985 Rotary launches "Polio Plus" program
- 1988 Global Polio Eradication initiative launched
- 1993 500 millionth child immunized against polio through *Polio Plus*
- 1994 ***United States of America certified Polio Free***
- 1995 87 million children immunized in India
- 1997 450 million children under 5 vaccinated world wide
- 2000 ***Western Pacific certified polio free***
- 2003 ***Europe certified polio free***
- 2006 ***Egypt and Niger certified polio free...***

**Number of endemic countries: 4**

**Afghanistan...  
India  
Pakistan  
Nigeria**



- 2007 Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awards the Rotary Foundation a \$100 Million challenge grant to end Polio
- 2009 Gates Foundation awards an additional \$255 Million to the Rotary Foundation and Rotary agrees to raise another \$100 Million.

**Facts:**

*Rotarians have contributed more than \$900 Million toward ridding the world of the disease. This does not include the thousands of volunteer hours contributed by Rotarians!*

*United States has saved more than \$180 Billion in health care costs because of the investment in immunization to have the USA become polio free.*

**Where does the money come from:**

**\$ 1.2 Billion from Rotary, including the Gates Foundation money**

**\$ 8.2 Billion from national Governments**

**\$10.4 Billion in costs**

*What happens if the immunization program effort is decreased?*

*The results may be 200,000 paralytic polio cases per year among low-income countries!*

**The Progress:**

	<i>Nigeria:</i>	<i>India:</i>
2009	388 cases	741 cases
2010	19 cases	42 cases

**Why so much progress in one year?**



A new polio vaccine was developed: Bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine...which covers the 2 strains of polio virus not covered in the previous vaccine.

In the most populous state in India, 500,000 children are born each month. Children must receive several doses of immunization because of the poor sanitation which precipitates a prevalence of dysentery that flushes the vaccine from the system. This makes the job more difficult and more expensive.

The importance of vigilant, ongoing vaccination:

*An outbreak of polio in any area of the world is just one planeload of passengers away as long as any polio continues to exist!!!*

Example: The Congo Republic!

The last case of indigenous polio was recorded in the Congo in 2000. Then in January of 2011, at least 179 people died as a result of an epidemic of 540 people!

Rotary International answered the emergency disaster by provided \$500,000 in grants to the World Health Organization for immediate immunization efforts to combat this outbreak.

*The Challenge:*

Getting certain religious groups to permit vaccination! As long as one child remains unvaccinated, the threat of the disease is present.

*The Polio Virus has not gone away. It is still present in the world. Vaccination is the only defense against this horrible afflicting disease.*



Sources: Rotarian Magazine Issues: January 2009, January, February, March, April 2011  
Rotary Polio Plus internet site.

CED/nfd