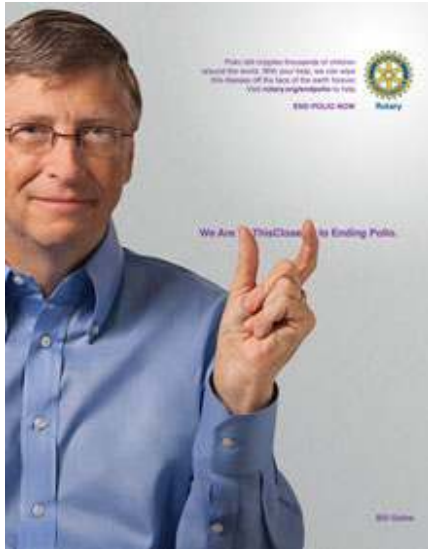


POLIO ERADICATION CAMPAIGN

NEWSLETTER No 10 January 2012



“END POLIO NOW”

“We are ‘This Close’ to ending polio!”

There are three items of exciting news regarded Polio Eradication!

Firstly: India has been free of Polio for one year. The last case was on 13th January 2011.

Secondly: It was announced at the Rotary International Assembly that Rotary has now raised just over \$200 million during the \$200 million Challenge which ends on the 30th June 2012.

Thirdly: Following the above announcement the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced that it had made a further donation of \$50 million to Rotary International so that it can continue with its drive to eradicate polio. This is not a challenge grant and results from the early

achievement by Rotary of the \$200 million challenge and the need for continued funding support for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Congratulations on these magnificent achievements. Rotary has played, is playing and will continue to play a full part in the eradication of this nasty disease and will not cease its efforts until the world can be declared free of polio. This will not be until there have been no cases worldwide for three years.

CONTRIBUTIONS received by 20th January 2012 are as follows:

Please keep the contributions coming in. Even though Rotary has already reached just over \$200 million money is still needed so that we can finally rid the world of this evil disease.

Clubs have contributed £161,626.54 District Donations are £53,234.95

Total £214,861.49 (around \$340,000)

Please send all contributions made out to **“RFUK – Polio Eradication”** to Keith Hammond at

6, Vauxhall Avenue, Derby DE22 4DZ

What has been achieved since the Campaign started in 1985?

1. \$1.2 billion donated by Rotary International. \$8 billion has been spent in total in polio eradication
2. Reduction from over 125 countries with polio to four that have never been free from polio.
3. Reduction from 350,000 cases of polio annually to 1350 cases last year.
4. Over 5 million children living normal happy lives rather than being crippled by polio.
5. Well over 2 billion children immunised against polio.

POLIO CASES IN 2011

The announcement that India has been polio free for twelve months is marvellous news and will act as a spur in the drive to the final eradication of polio. But just because we have achieved the \$200 million challenge we must continue with our efforts. Polio is still endemic in three countries Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria and although India has been free for one year it cannot be deemed polio free yet.

Last year excellent progress was made. In total last year there were 627 cases of which 321 were in the four endemic countries and 306 in the non endemic countries. In 2010 the total number of cases was 920 so the number in 2011 was a marked reduction.

Afghanistan and Nigeria have had 74 and 51 cases respectively – slightly higher than last year. **Pakistan** has shown a rise to 192 cases because of the difficulties of severe flooding and political uncertainty. However in these three countries intensive days of immunisation are continuing and hopefully these will raise the levels of immunity and so reduce the numbers of cases.

In 2011 there have been some outbreaks in Africa which originated in the endemic countries. **Chad** has had 130 cases; the **DRC** has had 92 cases and **Cote d'Ivoire** 36 cases. 8 other counties in Africa have had a total of 26 cases. For the first time for 12 years there have been 21 cases in **China** all within a small area.

What has been achieved in India proves that polio can be eradicated as long as we continue our efforts. The outbreaks in Africa only go to show what will happen if we let up at this stage – polio will recur and spread. The use of new vaccines and more frequent immunisation gives us the opportunity to achieve our dream of a world free of polio. We really are so close now. Let us make sure we do not miss this chance.



Rotary Race Meeting at Southwell Racecourse.

There will be an evening of jump races on **Tuesday 15 May 2012** to raise funds for Polio Eradication. We will be selling discounted admission tickets for just £5 each and all of the funds will go towards Polio Eradication in addition to a portion of the race sponsorship monies.

All Clubs have received information and details regarding this event from Foundation Chairman, Terry Leivers

Finally:

When I was District Governor in 1998-99 the RI Theme was “Follow Your Rotary Dream”. With your help we shall achieve a polio free world and fulfil the promise given 25 years ago. The present economic times do make fund raising more difficult and the committee and I do appreciate that you have local and international projects that you want to support. The Committee hopes that you will continue to accept the challenge given to us to carry on with Polio Eradication high on the list of projects for fund raising over the next few years.



We are “This Close” to ending polio. A polio free world will “Make Dreams Real” for millions around the world.

Keith Hammond District, “End Polio Now” Committee Chairman 20th January 2012