“END POLIO NOW”

The Eradication of Polio continues to be Rotary International’s number one priority.

“The Rotary $200 million Challenge”

Rotary International has agreed to match $200,000,000 of the Gates Foundation award to Rotary International of $355,000,000 by June 30th 2012.

Donations: £192,985 has been received by 21st June 2011. My thanks to all the Clubs who have now raised £147,052.94 The rest has come from District 1220 DDF, through donations, sale of badges etc and totals £45,932.95.

In dollar terms we have raised around US$295,000 and our target (set by RI) by 30th June 2012 is US$348,000.

Congratulations: It was announced at the RI Convention in May that $173.2 million has been raised worldwide by Rotary towards Rotary International’s $200 million Challenge. District 1220 has achieved 83% of the target we have set.

“If we all have the fortitude to see this effort through to the end, then we will eradicate polio” Bill Gates

RESULTS TO DATE FOR 2011

Continued progress is being made in the fight to finish off polio.

The number of cases was reduced in 2010 to 1294, over 300 less than the year before. This was achieved by the use of a new vaccine and by an increased frequency of immunisation in the affected areas.

In 2011 by the 31st May the figures are:

Endemic countries – 57 cases
Non Endemic Countries 124 cases
Total 181 cases compared to 254 at the same time last year

Endemic Countries: India 1 case
               Afghanistan 3 cases
               Pakistan 43 cases
               Nigeria 10 cases

Non Endemic Countries 9 countries have recorded cases the greatest numbers being in Chad -60 cases and DRC 50 cases.

NIDs and SNIDs continue in all areas. Intensive efforts are being made in Chad and DRC and neighbouring counties are being vaccinated as well. SNIDs took place from June 13 15th in Pakistan using the bivalent vaccine.

More Information:

There an excellent video to be found the RIBI website on polio and Polio Eradication. It is an address by Dr Bruce Aylward, working with the Global Polio Initiative and is well worth looking at. http://www.ribi.org/news/articles Click on Bruce Aylward “How we’ll stop polio for good” and there is a video which lasts about 18 minutes. It shows what has been done, what needs to be done and what will happen if the task is not completed.

Tony Stimpson has an updated talk lasting for 5 minutes talk on End Polio Now and is willing to come to speak to clubs. 01509 880122
RI Convention:
This was held in New Orleans, Louisiana in May 2011 and it was an excellent Convention. The highlights relating to “End Polio Now” were:

1. **Rotary International** is determined to achieve the US$200 Million Challenge and to continue the drive to eradicate polio. This will extend beyond the end of the challenge.

2. **All speakers** who spoke on polio were full of praise and recognition for what Rotary International has achieved and all stated that without the determination and drive of Rotary and Rotarians we would not be in the position of eradicating the disease.

As Bill Gates said during his plenary speech at the New Orleans convention “You’re the people who are capable of mobilizing others. You are the people who leaders listen and respond to. With your credibility, you are the world’s most important advocates for polio eradication. I’ve seen the incredible commitment you’ve brought to raising money — charity bike rides, a charity swim, climbing mountains, projecting the End Polio Now message in many, many places.”

3. **There were two notable speakers** on End Polio now, both of whom received standing ovations for their talks by the many thousands who were lucky enough to hear them.

   **Penny LeGate**, News Anchor and Reporter of a TV station in Seattle gave a moving talk entitled “No Surrender”. She had been on several NIDs and was committed to continue her support of the campaign. “Rotary does not surrender when the going gets difficult and will finish the job” was her message. Her talk was moving, factual and motivating.

   **Bill Gates**, Co chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, gave a superb talk extolling the commitment of Rotary, confirming that the eradication of polio is his number one priority, and stressing the importance of completing the task. **“We are this close to ending polio”** is the new phrase associated with the final push to eradicate the disease whilst holding up the thumb and forefinger of one hand with a small gap between them.

In stressing the importance of completing the task to eliminate polio he pointed out that if we do not polio will return and re-infect many, many countries and immunisation will have to continue. We have this small window of opportunity to win the battle. It is vital that we continue our efforts even after the Challenge has been met until the world is polio free.


**A REQUEST:** Please ensure that cheques for donations to the “End Polio Now” appeal are made out to “RFUK – Polio Eradication” and sent to me at 6, Vauxhall Avenue, Derby DE22 4DZ. I will record the donation and forward the cheque to RIBI. **Cheques which are incorrectly made out are returned to me and have to be returned to you for correction.** Gift Aid: If you wish to Gift Aid your contribution please contact David Curtis (0115 920 3147) who has forms available for you.

**Further information:**
Information can be found on several web sites:
- **RI:** [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) several areas to look at under Rotary Foundation
- **WHO** [www.polioeradication.org](http://www.polioeradication.org) an excellent site for up to date figures
- **RIBI** [www.ribi.org](http://www.ribi.org) look under Rotary Foundation
  - “Thanks for Life” [www.ribi.org/thanks-for-life](http://www.ribi.org/thanks-for-life)

With your help Rotary will keep its promise of a polio free world for all the children of the world. **Thank you again for your efforts and support.**
Keith Hammond, 21.06.2011