This website won the District 3300 “Best Website” award for RY 2010-11 for clubs with more than 25 members

webmaster: datomus.ayob@gmail.com
Polio cases worldwide decreased almost 50 percent during the first six months of 2011, compared with the same period in 2010.

Rotarians are raising funds for polio eradication as part of Rotary’s US$200 Million Challenge to match $335 million in grants from the Gates Foundation. The resulting $555 million will support immunization campaigns in developing countries where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compelling the hardships faced by their families.

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk.

Rotarians can help end the disease by providing funding and reminding their communities and government leaders that polio still exists and causes tremendous suffering.

Source: Rotary International News

Polio eradication is within reach. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has made significant steps forward since the launch last year of its new strategic plan and the bivalent oral polio vaccine. Among the four polio-endemic countries, India has reported only one case of the disease so far this year. A recent report by the GPEI Independent Monitoring Board, while noting some concerns in meeting GPEI goals, nevertheless stated that India is “on track to interrupt transmission this year.”

FILLER

TWO BEST FRIENDS

TWO FRIENDS WERE WALKING THROUGH THE DESERT.

DURING SOME POINT OF THE JOURNEY, THEY HAD AN ARGUMENT, AND ONE FRIEND SLAPPED THE OTHER ONE IN THE FACE.

THE ONE WHO GOT SLAPPED WAS HURT, BUT WITHOUT SAYING ANYTHING, WROTE IN THE SAND, TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE.

THEY KEPT ON WALKING, UNTIL THEY FOUND AN OASIS, WHERE THEY DECIDED TO TAKE A BATH.

THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN SLAPPED GOT STUCK IN THE MIRE AND STARTED DROWNING, BUT THE FRIEND SAVED HIM.

AFTER HE RECOVERED FROM THE NEAR DROWNING, HE WROTE ON A STONE:

TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE.

THE FRIEND WHO HAD SLAPPED AND SAVED HIS BEST FRIEND ASKED HIM, ‘AFTER I HURT YOU, YOU WROTE IN THE SAND AND NOW, YOU WRITE ON A STONE, WHY?’

THE FRIEND REPLIED ‘WHEN SOMEONE HURTS US WE SHOULD WRITE IT DOWN IN SAND, WHERE WINDS OF FORGIVENESS CAN ERASE IT AWAY.

BUT, WHEN SOMEONE DOES SOMETHING GOOD FOR US, WE MUST ENGRAVE IT IN STONE WHERE NO WIND CAN EVER ERASE IT.’

LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND AND TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE.

THEY SAY IT TAKES A MINUTE TO FIND A SPECIAL PERSON, AN HOUR TO APPRECIATE THEM, A DAY TO LOVE THEM, AN ENTIRE LIFE TO FORGET THEM.

TAKE THE TIME TO LIVE!

DO NOT VALUE THE THINGS YOU HAVE IN YOUR LIFE, BUT VALUE WHO YOU HAVE KNOWN IN YOUR LIFE!

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE PUDU ROTARY CLUB WISH TO EXPRESS THEIR Deepest CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHIES TO RTN. Tenny Lee ON THE SAD DEMISE OF HER BELOVED MOTHER IN LAW ON THE 10TH SEPT. 2011.

THEME

THEME

THEME
VISITOR DAY

In commerce and public bodies, people with only a modicum of interest or the need to deal with such bodies would only drop in or only be allowed to drop in into these bodies' inner administrative, manufacturing, trading, and out-of-bounds spaces. Clubs and associations too follow their own by-laws in dealing with people who are not members. Not to mention our own private residences. But come “Open Day; Warehouse Sale, Anniversary Occasions, Visitor Day; New Product Launching, House Warming, Festival Days” or other such specific occasions, the aforementioned private spaces are opened up to outsiders, visitors, customers, non-members and generally the public. One such body is our Rotary Club of Pudu. Through an initiative by the Club’s Membership Development Committee and sanctioned by the Board, the Club will hold a “Visitors’ Day” during a regular Monday Luncheon Meeting.

On “Visitors’ Day”, non-paying guests invited by our Club members will witness and partake in a typical Rotary Club of Pudu Luncheon Meeting. On this Day, the Club will literally open to the public the doors of the Rotary Club for the first time. Rotationary Fellowship and Service to non-Rotarians especially as these are the hallmarks of the Rotary Club of Pudu. However, the Club is not having a “Visitor Day” merely for all these altruistic reasons alone. Remember, the Club is bearing the luncheon costs of our guests for this occasion. This special one day affair is primarily allocated in our Club calendar so that the Club members can focus their concerted time and effort to invite prospective Rotarians to this one day affair. Nothing beats us, yet US, the members of the Rotary Club of Pudu being the ambassadors of the Club for this occasion. Both pre- and post Meeting with the attending guests, we will be the best persons to share the Rotary world with the prospects. We are Rotary’s image to them as fellow citizens enjoying Fellowship and Service through Rotary. We will also carry ourselves well in speech and in demeanour as Rotarians. At the end of the day, even if they don’t become Rotarians, they may spread the word around, so that others will want to become Rotarians.

However, Murphy’s Laws famously state that “if anything can go wrong, it will.” Our “Monday Luncheon Visitor Day” can fail and it will fail, if EVERYBODY (Pudu Rotarians) meet these conditions:
1. EVERYBODY expecting EVERYBODY to bring guests.
2. AND NO guests or few guests turn up.
3. EVERYBODY invite ANYBODY to come as guests. And there are NO qualified guests.
3. EVERYBODY socializing with EVERYBODY except with the GUESTS. And where are the Hosts?
4. By the way, “Visitors’ Day” is on Monday 10th October, 2011 during our Monday Luncheon Meeting at The Shang, Cheeks.

President’s Message

In the final push in organising the activities of our Charity Fund Raising Run 1 would like to share with you my thoughts on running in general.

Some sector of the public have said that the running events in Malaysia is a new fad and that more and more runners from the younger generation are participating actively recently. My view is that the running craze has been around for some time, most of us as kids in school would remember the amount of exercise and extra curricular activities organised at school level. I sure had my fair share of running back then but somehow for reasons of vocation, I did not run so actively until the last 3 years when encouraged by friends to participate actively again.

In today’s context, the running craze gain more exposure as the commercial sector world seize on the opportunities gain in organising run events and help to create an overall positive image for their organisation.

The lure of challenging oneself to complete the route in the shortest amount of time against a big field is certainly a good motivation for many. A big percentage of these runners actually do prepare themselves well with frequent runs and trainings at fitness centres mushrooming in towns in the last five years.

We human beings are creatures govern by reasons and habits in our daily activities. The reasons to run offered by a younger and older set of runners may differ but not by much. Most people adopt the running activity as part of their lifestyle because they want to stay fit, improve stamina, mentally calming, offer family bonding, improve focus, achieve set goals, competition… etc.

The reasons are bountiful with no visible negative effects. This social activity should be given bigger encouragement and incentive to prolong and grow beyond the fad or trend status as it is good for society at large.

We at Rotary level can assist in making running an integral part of our society by organising this Charity Run event well and disseminate this feel good run message to the younger set through the Internet and Rotaract Clubs.

The benefits of this Charity Run Event that we are organising is already a great motivating agent for our committee to do their utmost to ensure success and that the beneficiaries get the rewards targeted. However, I urge all Rotary members of our club to assist the committee in their final push to run the extra mile to the finishing line in whatever resources you can offer. Let us all run across the line together as a club in pursuit of benefits for those in need. I wish a happy and enjoyable run to those who participate.

Steven Oon
President RY2011-2012

During the project’s first six months, contractors installed white ceramic tiling on the interior surfaces of cement water tubs in more than 1,400 homes, making it easier to spot and remove grey mosquito larva spawned in the tubs.

In the second half of the project, members of the Rotary Club of Solo Kartini, Indonesia, which came up with the idea for the effort, educated residents to empty and scrub the tubs twice a week, close the lid on water containers, and avoid keeping stagnant water that can collect water. The club also oversaw a group of monitors, who were paid a small stipend to visit participating homes weekly to check on compliance with the procedures.

Case count

As a result of the project, the incidence of dengue fever in Kadiropru fell to four cases in the first four months of this year, compared with 43 cases in all of 2010. The percentage of tubs infested with larvae averaged 1.4 percent, compared with 9.7 percent for tubs in homes not included in the project.

“This is very significant, as the community went from being highly endemic to nonendemic,” says Paul Spiekermann, a physician specializing in tropical diseases and a member of the Rotary Club of Westport, Connecticut.

He also noted that chemicals, which could have proved hazardous to public health and the environment, were not used to treat tubs and other water retaining areas to interrupt the mosquitoes’ breeding cycle.

Dengue affects 30 million people annually and causes about 22,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization. “The disease is very debilitating, and drug treatment or vaccination is not available,” says Spiekermann, who chairs District 7980’s grants committee.

The project, which supports Rotary’s disease prevention and treatment area of focus, received a US$15,660 Foundation global grant, $7,740 in District Designated Fund allocations from the two districts, and $15,844 raised by participating clubs.

Key to the effort’s success was the collaboration between the international and local Rotary clubs, Surakartas public health department, and the Kadiropru community, say the project’s sponsor Rotarians. They also point to the cooperation between the clubs and the global grant coordinator at RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

Model project

In July, the Solo Kartini club presented project data to the mayor of Surakarta, who is interested in expanding the effective monitoring and training components, along with its proven health benefits to the community, will help make the effort sustainable.

“There are members of the community who are less fortunate and live in marginal areas, far from healthy and proper social conditions,” says Danaris Santosa, a member of the Solo Kartini club. “As Rotarians, we feel obliged to help them improve their quality of life. This project is expected to become a model to reduce and possibly eradicate dengue in similar target areas around Surakarta and elsewhere in Indonesia where it is endemic.”

Source: Dan Nixon and Arnold R. Grahl
Rotary International News – 1 September 2011

Wild poliovirus confirmed in China

The Ministry of Health confirms wild poliovirus type 1 cases in China.

The Ministry of Health, China, has informed WHO that wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has been isolated from four young children, aged between four months and two years, with onset of paralysis between 3 and 27 July 2011. All four cases are from Hetao prefecture, Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region, China. Genetic sequencing of the isolated viruses indicates they are genetically related to viruses currently circulating in Pakistan. The last WPV1 case in China was reported in 1999, due to an importation from India. The last indigenious polio case occurred in China in 1994.

A national team of clinicians, laboratory experts, epidemiologists and public health experts has been dispatched to the affected region, to assist in the investigation and planning of response activities, and this team will be joined by international support as required.

National, Xinjiang autonomous region and local public health authorities are currently conducting an epidemiological investigation, including collection of stool specimens from contacts and evaluation of vaccination coverage.

The Ministry of Health plans to conduct an initial response vaccination campaign in early September, targeting 3.8 million children aged under 15 years in the key affected outbreak area, and children aged under 5 years in other areas of Xinjiang.

Source: www.polioeradication.org

RI General Secretary John Hewko meets with Bill Gates on polio eradication

General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International John Hewko met with Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 7 September in Seattle, Washington, USA, to discuss moving forward together to eradicate
Burton believes that Rotary's promotion of high ethical standards is one of the qualities that sets it apart from other organizations. “It assures those dealing with us that we can be trusted,” he says. “Most of us are in a business or profession that already has a code of ethics. Vocational service in Rotary just adds to that responsibility. We have an obligation to go above and beyond to make sure that all our actions are above reproach.”

A Rotarian since 1979, Burton is vice chair of the Future Vision Committee and a member of the Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force for the United States. He has served RI as director, Rotary Foundation trustee and trustee vice chair, International Assembly moderator, assistant moderator, and group discussion leader, and district governor.

His other service to Rotary includes chair of the 2011 New Orleans Convention Committee, vice chair of the Investment Advisory Committee, liaison trustee of the Vocational Service Committee, Permanent Fund national adviser, and regional Rotary Foundation coordinator. He was aide to 2006-07 RI President William B. Boyd.

Burton has received the RI Service Above Self Award and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, Distinguished Service Award, and International Service Award for a Polio-Free World.

Burton and his wife, Jetta, have two children and three grandchildren. The 2011 nominating committee members are John M. Pinson, USA (chair), Eric L. E. Adamson, USA; Lars-Olof Fredriksson, Finland; Serge Gouteyron, France; Jerry L. Hall, USA; Rafael G. Hechanova, Philippines; Toshio Itahashi, Japan; Michael J. Johns, USA; Kwang Tae Kim, Korea; David D. Morgan, Wales; Hans J. Müller-Rech, Germany; M.K. Panduranga Setty, India; Julio Sorjús, Korea; Carlos E. Speroni, Argentina; Robert A. Stuart Jr., USA; Yoshimasa Watanabe, Japan; and C. Grant Wilkins, USA.

Global grant project impressive in combating dengue fever

A Rotary Foundation Global Grant project has proved highly effective in preventing the spread of dengue fever in a community in Indonesia. The one-year project, the first funded by a global grant under the Future Vision pilot, began on 1 July 2010, carried out by Rotarians in districts 3400 (Indonesia) and 7980 (Connecticut, USA).

The effort helped disrupt the breeding cycle of mosquitoes that transmit the disease in Kadiwuro, a community of almost 50,000 people near Surakarta, Central Java.
Ms. Angeline Tan was a former banker, graduated with a banking diploma from UK in 1993. Has an MBA from Australia in 2002. More than 17 years working in the financial services business.

Currently runs a gift and flower shop business and also is an experienced weight management coach attached to PERFECT FIT, that promotes the HealthPointe Program from USA.

**Speaker's CV**

**HOW TO LOSE WEIGHT**

By Eating More?
Angeline Tan
PERFECT FIT Coach
www.perfectfit-hp.blogspot.com

**Generally, 3 EATING Types:**

- **Slim Type**
  - Eat a lot, still thin
- **Aunty Type**
  - Eat little, put on easily
- **Fatty Type**
  - Don’t care, JUST EAT!

Q: Which type are you?

**Some factors triggering weight gain:**

- Family History
- Endocrine disorders (Hormonal problems)
- Events and stages in life (aging)
- Sedentary lifestyle (inactivity/no exercise)
- Unhealthy eating habits
- Stress and overwork
- Lowered Metabolism
- Excess & strict Dieting!

**Obesity is a sickness**

WHO - Obesity is the 4th Chronic Disease!!

...will lead to many chronic diseases:

- Diabetes (57%)
- Pancreas failure (30%)
- Heart disease (17%)
- High Blood Pressure (17%)
- Arthritis (14%)
- Breast or other cancers (11%)

**2 Types of Obese Shapes:**

- PEAR
- APPLE

Q: Why do we put on weight?

- Energy needs and weight loss
- Body uses food for energy; it stores any excess energy as fat.
- If we eat more food than our body needs for daily activities and cell maintenance, we’ll gain weight.

**Speaker’s Text**

**THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF PUDU WARMLY WELCOME OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR DR. RAVEENDRA KUMAR SARAVANAN TO OUR REGULAR WEEKLY MEETING ON THE 19TH. SEPTEMBER 2011.**
To lose weight, we need to get our body to use up the stored fats.

The most effective way to do this is to increase your metabolism – i.e. burn more fat to convert into more energy that our body needs, hence losing more weight.

**How to increase Metabolic Rate?**

1. **Healthy Eating Regime**
   - Eat right food, right portion and regularly

2. **Increase activity level – more exercise**
   - Min 10,000 steps a day

3. **Drink Enough Water – Min 2.4 liters a day**

4. **Healthy Supplementation**
   - Multivitamins, Omega 3, B Complex, Anti-Oxidants etc

---

**Healthy Eating Regime…**

You Need to Eat

- **Breakfast** - snacks
- **Lunch** - snacks
- **Dinner** - snacks

Eat More To Lose Weight!

MyPlate is the current nutrition guide published by the USDA, depicting a plate and glass divided into five food groups. It replaced the USDA Food Pyramid guide on June 2, 2011, ending 19 years of USDA food pyramid diagrams. MyPlate will be displayed on food packaging and used in nutrition education in the USA.

**Body Fat Indicators…**

- **Body Mass Index (BMI)**
  - Normal: 18.5 – 25
  - Overweight: 25 < X
  - Obese: < 30

A proxy for human body fat based on an individual’s weight and height. BMI does not actually measure the percentage of body fat.

Calculate BMI:

\[ \text{Height (m)} \times \text{Height (m)} = X \]

\[ \text{Weight (Kg)} / X = \text{BMI} \]

**Example:**

1.7 m x 1.7 m = 2.89
80 kg / 2.89 = 27.68 (Overweight)

**Body Fat Percentage**

The total weight of the person’s fat divided by the person’s weight. It consists of essential body fat and storage body fat.

- **Description**
  - **Women**
    - Essential fat: 10–13%
    - Athletes: 14–20%
    - Fitness: 21–24%
    - Average: 25–31%
    - Obese: 32%+
    - Standard Guideline: 17–27%
  - **Men**
    - Essential fat: 2–5%
    - Athletes: 6–13%
    - Fitness: 14–17%
    - Average: 18–24%
    - Obese: 25%+

**After the meeting…**

Get your BODY COMPOSITION ANALYSIS

- Body Age
- Body Fat %
- Visceral Fat
- Ideal BMI

**Invitation to HealthPointe 2.0 Preview**

- Weight Loss Program
- Synergy of Medical and Nutritional Science
- Simple and easy to use
- Safe and rapid result
- Life long Education

**Date:** 15 Sep 2011 (Thu) 8.30 p.m.

**Venue:** Sri Wangsaria Condo Jalan Ara, Bangsar

**Thanking of Guest Speaker**

PP Chow Tain on behalf of the Club, thanked the guest speaker Ms. Angeline Tan by presenting to her the Club’s certificate of appreciation for her wonderful presentation.
WEEKLY MEETING ON 12th SEPTEMBER 2011 @ HOTEL SENTRAL PUDU

Members enjoying their lunch. Members listening to the speaker of the day.

On one of those meetings that Rtn Edward was attending. The Speaker Ms Angeline Tan giving her talk

More....
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Now the facts... SHOCKING News...

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The effort helped disrupt the breeding cycle of mosquitoes that transmit the disease in Kadipiro, a community of almost 50,000 people near Surakarta, Central Java.

The following activities were carried out last week:

1. The fund raising committee meeting chaired by VP Aaron Ong met on 5th September 2011, at 7pm at Club Sri Damansara.
2. The 3rd Club Administration committee meeting was postponed. Club Admin Director – Lawrance Annies was not feeling well.
3. Last Thursday, 8th September 2011, The Rotary Foundation committee meeting met at Duck King Restaurant, Wisma Selangor Dredging and was followed by 100% Appreciation Dinner chaired by IPP Leong Choy Ying. The food served was good and everyone present was presented with a personalised bath towel.

Introduction of Speaker

Rtn. Asok Kumar introduced the guest speaker for the day who was Ms. Angeline Tan who spoke on the topic of How To Lose Weight By Eating More.
**Editorial**

**VISITOR DAY**

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The lure of challenging oneself to complete the course in the shortest amount of time against a big field is certainly a good motivation for many. A big percentage of these runners actually do prepare themselves well with frequent runs and trainings at fitness centres mushrooming in towns in the last five years.

We human beings are creatures govern by reasons and habits in our daily activities. The reason to run offered by a younger and older set of runners may differ but not by much. Most people adopt the running activity as part of their lifestyle because they want to stay fit, improve stamina, mentally calming, offer family bonding, improve focus, achieve set goals, competition etc.

The reasons are bountiful with no visible negative effects. This social activity should be given bigger encouragement and incentive to prolong and grow beyond the fad or trend status as it is good for society at large.

We at Rotary level can assist in making running an integral part of our society by organising this Charity Run event well and disseminate this feel good run message to the younger set through the Internet and Rotaract Clubs.

The benefits of this Charity Run Event that we are organising is already a great motivating agent for our committee to do their utmost to ensure success and that the benefactors get the rewards targeted. However, I urge all Rotary members of our club to assist the committee in their final push to run the extra mile to the finishing line in whatever resources you can offer. Let us all run across the line together as a club in pursuit of benefits for those in need. I wish a happy and enjoyable run to those who participate.

Steven Oon
President RI2011-2012

During the project’s first six months, contractors installed white ceramic tiling on the interior surfaces of cement water tubs in more than 1,400 homes, making it easier to spot and remove grey mosquito larva spawned in the tubs.

In the second half of the project, members of the Rotary Club of Solo Kartini, Indonesia, which came up with the idea for the effort, educated residents to empty and scrub the tubs twice a week, close the lid on water containers, and not to fill in water that can collect water. The club also oversaw a group of monitors, who were paid a small stipend to visit participating homes weekly to check on compliance with the procedures.

Case count

As a result of the project, the incidence of dengue fever in Kadiopro fell to four cases in the first four months of this year, compared with 43 cases in all of 2010. The percentage of tubs treated with larva averaged 1.4 percent, compared with 9.7 percent for tubs in homes not included in the project.

“This is very significant, as the community went from being highly endemic to nonendemic,” says Paul Spiekermann, a physician specializing in tropical diseases and a member of the Rotary Club of Westport, Connecticut.

He also noted that chemicals, which could have proved hazardous to public health and the environment, were not used to treat tubs and other water retaining areas to interrupt the mosquitoes’ breeding cycle.

Dengue affects 30 million people annually and causes about 22,000 deaths, according to the World Health Organization. “The disease is very debilitating, and drug treatment or vaccination is not available,” says Spiekermann, who chairs District 7980’s grants committee.

The project, which supports Rotary’s disease prevention and treatment area of focus, received a US$15,660 Foundation global grant, $7,740 in District Designated Fund allocations from the two districts, and $15,840 raised by participating clubs.

Key to the effort’s success was the collaboration between the international and local Rotary clubs, Surakarta’s public health department, and the Kadiopro community, say the project’s sponsor Rotarians. They also point to the cooperation between the clubs and the global grant coordinator at RI World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA.

Model project

In July, the Solo Kartini club presented project data to the mayor of Surakarta, who is interested in expanding the service to other areas of the city. The projects effective monitoring and training components, along with its proven health benefits to the community, will help make the effort sustainable.

“There are members of the community who are less fortunate and live in marginal areas, far from healthy and proper social conditions,” says Danarsih Santosa, a member of the Solo Kartini club. “As Rotarians, we feel obliged to help them improve their quality of life. This project is expected to become a model to reduce and possibly eradicate dengue in similar target areas around Surakarta and elsewhere in Indonesia where it is endemic.”

Source: Dan Nixon and Arnold R. Grafh
Rotary International News – 1 September 2011

**Wild poliovirus confirmed in China**

The Ministry of Health confirms wild poliovirus type 1 cases in China.

The Ministry of Health, China, has informed WHO that wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) has been isolated from four young children, aged between four months and two years, with onset of paralysis between 3 and 27 July 2011. All four cases are from Hetao prefecture, Xinjiang Uygar autonomous region, China. Genetic sequencing of the isolated viruses indicates they are genetically related to viruses currently circulating in Pakistan. The last WPV1 case in China was reported in 1999, due to an importation from India. The last indigenous polio case occurred in China in 1994.

A national team of clinicians, laboratory experts, epidemiologists and public health experts has been dispatched to the affected region, to assist in the investigation and planning of response activities, and this team will be joined by international support as required.

National, Xinjiang autonomous region and local public health authorities are currently conducting an epidemiological investigation, including collecting collection of stool specimens from contacts and evaluation of vaccine coverage.

The Ministry of Health plans to conduct an initial response vaccination campaign in early September, targeting 3.8 million children aged under 15 years in the key affected outbreak area, and children aged under 5 years in other areas of Xinjiang.

Source: www.polioeradication.org

RI General Secretary John Hewko meets with Bill Gates on polio eradication

General Secretary and CEO of Rotary International John Hewko met with Bill Gates, cochair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, 7 September in Seattle, Washington, USA, to discuss moving forward together to eradicate...
polo and continuing to energize Rotarians to see the eradication effort through to the finish.

“The meetings at the Gates Foundation were very productive,” Hewko says. “Bill Gates recognized the enormous contribution of Rotary to the cause of polio eradication and the tremendous capacity of Rotarians to continue the fight. We identified several concrete opportunities to work even more closely together to achieve our mutual goal of a polio-free world.”

Polio eradication is within reach. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has made significant steps forward since the launch last year of its new strategic plan and the bivalent oral polio vaccine. Among the four polio-endemic countries, India has reported only one case of the disease so far this year. A recent report by the GPEI Independent Monitoring Board, while noting some concerns in meeting GPEI goals, nevertheless stated that India is “on track to interrupt transmission this year.”

Polio cases worldwide decreased almost 50 percent during the first six months of 2011, compared with the same period in 2010.

Rotarians are raising funds for polio eradication as part of Rotary's US$200 Million Challenge to match $355 million in grants from the Gates Foundation. The resulting $555 million will support immunization campaigns in developing countries where polo continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk.

Rotarians can help end the disease by providing funding and reminding their communities and government leaders that polio still exists and causes tremendous suffering.

Source: Rotary International News