

**\* There is great news with regard to the final push to eradicate polio...**

**EVANSTON, Ill., U.S.A. (Nov. 26, 2007)** -- Rotary International today announced a partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that will inject a much-needed US\$200 million into the global campaign to eradicate polio, a crippling and sometimes fatal disease that still paralyzes children in parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East and threatens children everywhere.

The Rotary Foundation has received a \$100-million Gates Foundation grant, which Rotary will raise funds to match, dollar-for-dollar, over three years. The Evanston-based volunteer service organization will spend the initial \$100 million within one year in direct support of immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a partnership spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF.

“The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication,” says Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “Eradicating polio will be one of the most significant public health accomplishments in history, and we are committed to helping reach that goal.”

\* Zone 22 Rotarians plan to show their pride at the LA Convention All Rotarian in D5020 are very proud of our RI President Wilf, and because this RI President is from Canada Rotarians in Zone 22 are planning to wear a distinctive Rotary shirt and vest. These can be ordered by visiting the website.

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/zprg/dxhome/home.aspx?zid=22>

\* LA Convention: Rotarians who wish to learn more about the LA Convention can visit the site by way of the RI website [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

\* Travel to LA: Rotarians in District 5020 may seek information and complete their booking to travel to the LA Rotary International Convention by contacting Tacoma Rotarian Mary Jo Stom Copland. She is able to not only make your reservations for the Amtrak Rotary Express group travel, but she will help you make a booking for your hotel at the convention or travel by air if that is your choice. She can be reached by phone: 253-564-8189 or by email: [mj@thetravelcompany.net](mailto:mj@thetravelcompany.net)

\* DG Norm and Marion are visiting Rotary clubs in Port Townsend and Port Angeles this week and then complete official visits in South Cowichan and Qualicum Beach. They thank everyone for making the visits very special.

\* DGE Brian Beagle is also traveling to meet Presidents-elect and he indicates that the registration information for the Assembly will be on the website this week.

Lorna Curtis

District Administration and Club Service