

In honour of Trivia Night this Saturday, this week's **Rotary Foundation Thought** is about PolioPlus.

Decades ago, polio outbreaks were a constant threat around the world. After the introduction of polio vaccines by Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin and a steadfast immunization effort, these outbreaks became part of history in most of the world.

Yet many still live under the threat of polio, which is why Rotary and its global partners are committed to reaching every child with the vaccine and ending this disease worldwide.

Major gains have been made in the global fight against polio:

- * In the 1980s, 1,000 children were infected by the disease every day in 125 countries. Today, polio cases have declined by 99 percent, with fewer than two thousand cases reported in 2006.

- * Two billion children have been immunized, five million have been spared disability, and over 250,000 deaths from polio have been prevented.

Help eradicate polio

Contribute to stopping polio

The biggest obstacles to eradicating polio are the underfunding of the global initiative and insufficient political commitment from the remaining polio-affected countries. Rotary International believes the primary source for additional funds can and should be governments of polio-free industrialized countries. Your contribution through Rotary will help ensure that we keep doing our part to get the job done.

Contribute to Rotary's \$100 Million Challenge

Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge, a three-year fundraising commitment, is the Rotary Foundation's response to the \$100 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help fight polio eradication. Every dollar given to PolioPlus during the next three years will be counted toward the \$100 million match.

The PolioPlus Fund provides global-level funds through Trustee-reviewed grants to the initiative based on strategic priorities. Give now.

Contribute to PolioPlus Partners

PolioPlus Partners allows individuals, Rotary clubs, and districts to support urgent social mobilization and surveillance projects submitted by Rotarians in polio-endemic, importation, and high-risk countries. In 2006-07, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation allocated US\$1 million to match, on a first-come, first-served basis, cash contributions to PolioPlus Partners at a level of US\$0.50 for each \$1 contributed. Cash and DDF donations to PolioPlus Partners, effective 1 December 2007 through 30 June 2008, will be counted toward matching the Gates Foundation Challenge Grant. Learn more about PolioPlus Partners.

What your gift can do

- * A contribution of US\$135 will buy a bicycle to distribute vaccine to villages. A contribution of \$250 will buy T-shirts to make health workers highly visible during a National Immunization Day.

- * A contribution of \$200 will buy 10,000 pamphlets to inform the public about an upcoming immunization campaign.

- * A contribution of \$1,000 will buy 700 vaccine carriers to ensure the oral polio vaccine is maintained at the

correct temperature

* All contributions to PolioPlus and PolioPlus Partners are eligible for Paul Harris Fellow Recognition.

Give through Rotary

Friends of Rotary are welcome to add their support to Rotary's number-one goal. Contribute to Rotary's \$100 Million Challenge today.

Layne Marshal, Daybreak Rotary Club