



Issue 244 - September-October 2022

Editor's Note

Dear Readers,

The year 2014 was a memorable year for India as, in spite of all odds, the country was officially declared polio-free. Since long, India had been considered one of the most difficult geographical locations to eliminate the disease. This was owing to India's vast population, tropical climate in many parts of the country, and other environmental challenges. Considering that India was constituting over 60% of all global polio cases as recently as 2009, achieving polio-free status was a major success and now serves as an example that eradication of polio is indeed possible.

Our fight against Polio continues globally and, in spite of some recent worries, Rotarians world-over continue to support the global eradication initiative. We all are aware that till the time a single case of polio exists anywhere in the world, we are all at risk.

This World Polio Day, on 24th October, is a significant occasion to recommit ourselves to put in our best efforts in scaling up the battle against polio. Whether it is volunteering, advocating or donating funds...each of us has a role to play.

How are you supporting polio eradication? How are you observing World Polio Day this year? Do you have any stories to tell? We would be happy to share your story. Please write to us.

Rotary Regards,



Jeetendra Sharma
Editor-in-Chief



Trustee Chair's Message

Who are your Rotary heroes? One of mine was Clem Renouf, 1978-79 RI president. I related to Sir Clem, who died in 2020, in many ways. We shared the same profession and Australian nationality and a passion for polio eradication. It was Clem's leadership that first put us on track to embrace the cause, mobilizing what is today a global partnership that has led us to the cusp of eradicating a human disease for only the second time in history.

What Rotary and its partners have achieved is nothing short of remarkable. We have helped reduce polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide, immunizing more than 2 billion children across 122 countries. Last year alone, more than 370 million children were vaccinated across 30 countries, using more than 1 billion doses of oral polio vaccine. As a result, we are seeing near historic lows in the number of cases. In August 2020, the World Health Organization African region was certified free of wild poliovirus, an incredible achievement for Rotary members and a huge step on the road to eradication.

But remember that as long as polio exists anywhere, it is a threat to people everywhere, especially to young children. You may have heard about importations of the disease to Malawi and Mozambique, detection of poliovirus in sewage in the UK, and a recent case in the U.S.

To stay agile, Rotary and its partners are deploying a new polio vaccine, novel oral polio vaccine type 2 (nOPV2), to fight outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus, also known as variant poliovirus, which continues to threaten children in Africa, as well as several countries in Asia and the Middle East, including Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Rotary is as active as ever. We are calling on every member to take action and be part of this historic fight. Take the fight to your clubs and communities on World Polio Day, 24 October. Keep raising awareness of the importance of polio eradication and Rotary's critical role in that effort by holding events and fundraisers. Don't forget that contributions toward the goal of \$50 million per year for polio eradication will be matched 2-to-1 by our generous partner, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Like Sir Clem, we can all be Rotary heroes, each playing a part in our organization's great legacy. Through giving, raising awareness and funds, and providing hands-on service, each of us brings Rotary a step closer to fulfilling our promise to the children of the world by eradicating polio for good.

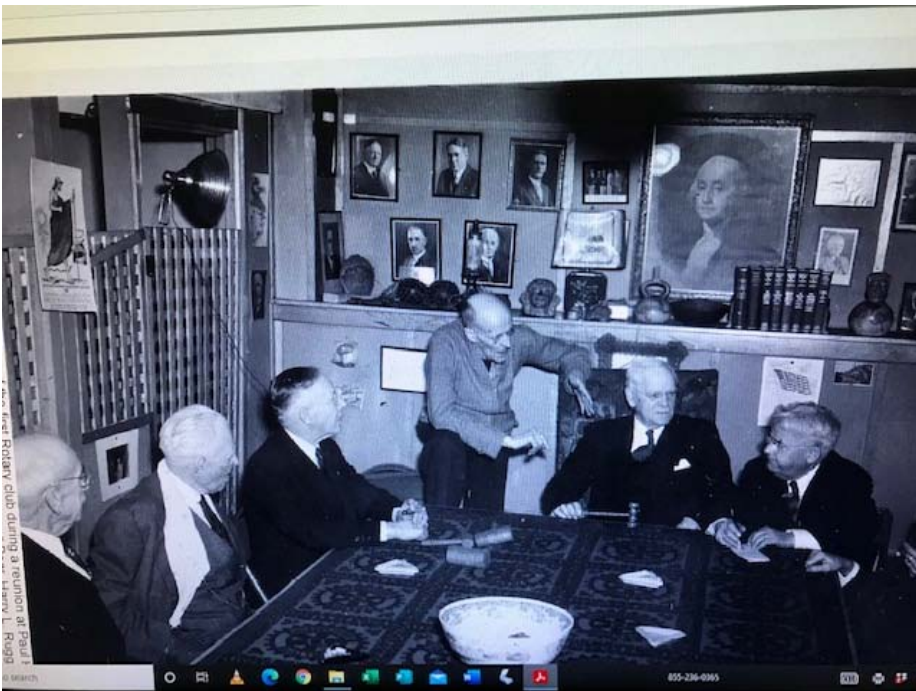


Ian H.S. Riseley
Trustee Chair 2022-23

46 AKS Arch Klumph Society Rotarians visit Paul Harris House in Chicago



On Thursday, 13 October 2022, 46 Arch Klumph Society Rotarians boarded a bus in Evanston to visit a totally repaired, restored, and re-furnished Paul Harris House “Comley Bank” located in Morgan Park, Chicago. Some of the countries represented by the visiting Rotarians were from Taiwan, Kenya, Nigeria, Canada and the USA. When the bus arrived at the Paul Harris House, AKS Rotarians were greeted by Rotarian Docents and led up to the entrance in the newly built meeting room located at the back of the house. Once in the new meeting room, Rotary International served refreshments and there was brief History and overview of what to expect as the visitors entered the original house which connected to the new meeting room addition.



The Paul Harris House was built in 1905, purchased by Paul and Jean Harris in 1912 two years after they were married in 1910. PDG Irv Kaplan, an interior designer, was invited to chair the refurbishing of the entire house as it looked when Paul and Jean lived in this house. In 1942, Rotary International approached Paul Harris to invite a group of the pioneer Rotarians that were still around to come to the house and be photo-recorded as Rotarians in action throughout the house. Consequently, Irv acquired photographic copies of these images which helped him duplicate the actual interior of the house. Searching for all these circa 1912-1942 furnishings took 2 years start to completion and today if Paul and Jean came home the interior would look exactly like it did in 1942.

In 1949 Paul died on the bed in the master bedroom as he looked out upon his favorite international garden. Jean stayed in Chicago until 1949, returned to her home in Edinburgh Scotland.





Rotarians purchased the house to be on exhibit for our 2005 100-year Rotary International Anniversary Convention in Chicago. During this convention Rotary reports over eight hundred Rotarians came out to see the outside of the house. Since then, the house has been Historically Recognized, restored inside and out preserving all the features just like the original. Since the entire house restoration has been returned to the original condition, we are consistently asked to have various events and tours in the House, this has cost many dollars and thanks to generous Rotarians, funds have been raised to get this far. There exist a variety of opportunities to donate such as purchasing engraved bricks for the walking path and other naming rights offered in exchange for contributions made to the Paul and Jean Harris House Foundation. Funds now collected will cover the cost of landscaping and Maintenance of the house.

THE ROTARY GLOBAL HISTORY FELLOWSHIP (RGHF) SUPPORTS CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMPLETE & MAINTAIN THIS PAUL HARRIS HOUSE.



Paul Harris House Rotary Room



Paul Harris Memorial Walkway Recent Stone

For contributions:

Credit card www.paulharrishome.org

Mail, Please make checks payable to U.S. funds to: Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation
c/o Gorman & Associates 9517 W. Ogden Ave Brookfield, IL 60513

Questions? Please contact:

PDG Irv Kaplan, Chair RGHF Rotary Global History Fellowship, Pres. Paul Harris Memorial
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Take action for World Polio Day!

In her World Polio Day message, Rotary International President Jennifer Jones explains why we need your support on World Polio Day.



Re-emergence of polio underscores the need for eradication

By **Arnold R. Grahl**

The detection of poliovirus, and even cases of polio, in places where it hasn't been found for years has demonstrated once again that eradicating a human disease isn't easy, especially in the final stages.

In recent months, an unvaccinated man in the United States was paralyzed. In the UK, poliovirus was detected in sewage. In Malawi, a child contracted polio. And Mozambique announced its first polio outbreak in 30 years.

But rather than be discouraged, Rotary and its partners in the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) (GPEI) remain confident that they are making progress and can achieve their goal of a polio-free world. There are several reasons for this optimism.

A new oral vaccine, which has a substantially lower risk of causing vaccine-derived variant polio, is now available. This makes it less likely that the weakened strain of poliovirus that is used in the vaccine will mutate and spur outbreaks in communities where immunization levels are low, which has occurred in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Moreover, the number of cases of the disease caused by the wild virus has been at historically low levels in Pakistan and Afghanistan, the two countries where poliovirus transmission has never been stopped. This presents an opportunity to seize the moment and stop the wild virus forever.

Rotary's perseverance has played an enormous role in bringing the world to this point. It's that commitment, coupled with the determination of the other GPEI partners, that is needed to complete the job.

"This year has shown us why we must stay the course on polio eradication," said Mike McGovern, chair of Rotary's PolioPlus Committee. "We have an opportunity to make history and need Rotarians to redouble their commitment by raising funds and awareness."

Rotary members have been at the center of the worldwide effort to eradicate polio for more than three decades. Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and helped found the GPEI in 1988, with the goal of eradicating a human disease for only the second time in history. (The World Health Organization declared the world free of smallpox in 1980.) When the GPEI was founded, wild poliovirus paralyzed hundreds of children every day, with an estimated 350,000 polio cases across more than 125 countries in one year. Since then, cases have plummeted more than 99.9%, sparing more than 20 million people from paralysis.

Through a funding partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Rotary commits US\$150 million to fighting polio every year. Rotary members have contributed more than US\$2.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to this effort. With the GPEI partners, members engage with communities everywhere to encourage high vaccination rates and help immunize more than 400 million children annually.

As the world gets closer to having zero polio cases that are caused by the wild virus, public health experts say it is more important to track all forms of the virus, wherever they may appear, including in polio-free regions.

They also say that the re-emergence of polio in these places highlights the importance of vaccination as the only form of protection against polio and many other diseases. It draws attention to the work needed to encourage people to get vaccinated at a time when vaccination rates are dropping in some communities. And it reinforces the fact that polio anywhere is a threat everywhere, which underscores the importance of the End Polio Now campaign.

As World Polio Day on 24 October approaches, Rotary urges its members to tell their communities about the importance of vaccination. Global donors and national governments are also expected to announce new pledges to fund the GPEI's 2022-26 polio eradication strategy. This strategy focuses on greater accountability from national governments about their work to eradicate wild polio and end outbreaks of polio caused by variant poliovirus.

With these kinds of sustained political and financial commitments, the world is still on the path toward an incredible accomplishment: making sure no person is paralyzed by polio ever again.

GPEI Welcomes the Launch of the 2022 Scientific Declaration on Polio Eradication

11 October 2022

Today, more than 2,800 leading scientists, physicians, and global health experts from 110 endemic, polio-affected, at-risk, and partner countries launched the [2022 Scientific Declaration on Polio Eradication](#). The GPEI welcomes this declaration, which sends a powerful message to the world that eradication is feasible and urgently needed now.

Although remarkable progress has been made, recent detections in countries that haven't seen the virus for many years and persistent transmission in countries long plagued by the disease demonstrate that polio anywhere remains a threat to people everywhere. The GPEI is hopeful that this declaration can reenergize the global community around our shared vision of a polio-free world. It offers expert perspective on the promise of new tools and tactics, the benefits of polio investments to health systems, and the unacceptable consequences of failing to eradicate the disease.

The launch of the Scientific Declaration comes one week ahead of the [polio pledging moment at the World Health Summit on 18 October 2022](#), where the GPEI seeks to raise funds in support of its [2022-2026 Strategy](#). The thousands of experts who have signed the Declaration endorse the GPEI's strategic plan, while calling on partners, donors, polio-affected country leaders, and communities to recommit to the goal of eradication and ensure children everywhere are protected from this devastating preventable disease. With their support and the commitment of the world, we can and will end polio.

Source: www.polioeradication.org

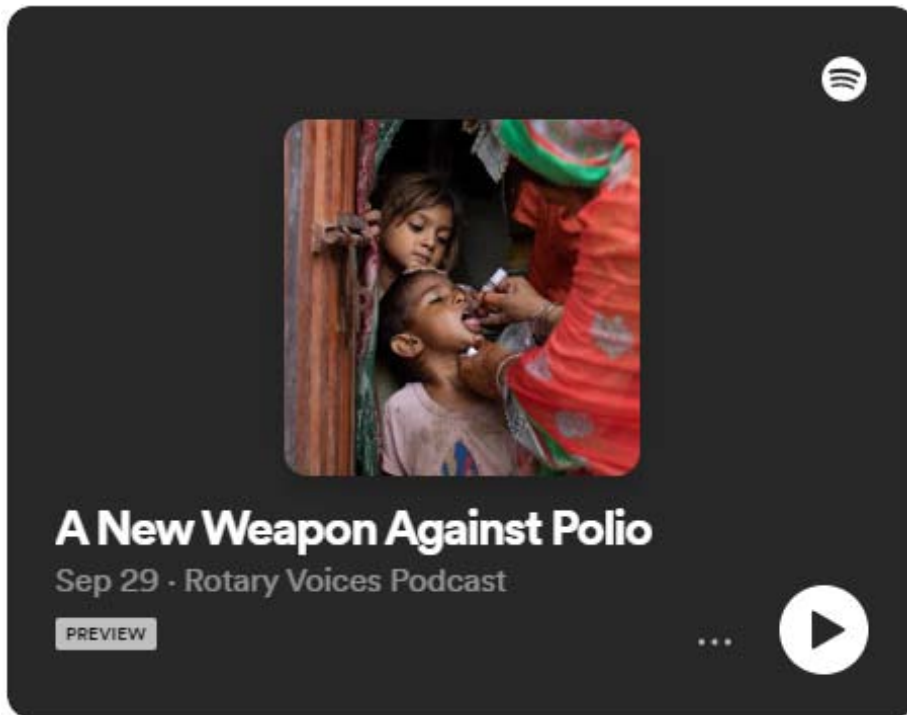
A new weapon against polio

A modified vaccine offers hope that eradication is closer than ever

By Jason Keyser

In mid-2017, two groups of 15 strangers lived together for 28 days each in a ring of shipping containers assembled in the parking lot of Antwerp University Hospital in Belgium. They had access to books and movies, a small courtyard for barbecues, a common kitchen and dining room, and a fitness room — all of it behind secure interlocking doors and under the watch of personnel in protective gowns.

What sounds like a reality TV or sci-fi scenario was, in fact, a remarkable clinical trial of the latest weapon in the battle to eradicate polio — a reengineered vaccine called the novel oral polio vaccine type 2, or nOPV2. The study aimed to evaluate whether the altered formula, the first major update to polio vaccines in about six decades, could help end outbreaks of circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus, also known as variant poliovirus. Such cases arise in rare instances when the live but weakened virus contained in oral polio vaccines circulates in areas of low vaccine coverage and mutates back into a dangerous form that can infect people who have not been fully vaccinated.



Read the full story [here](#).

Rotary President Jennifer Jones announces US\$150 million pledge toward polio eradication

By Ryan Hyland

Rotary International President Jennifer Jones appeared on the main stage at the star-studded Global Citizen Festival on 24 September to highlight Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio and announce an additional US\$150 million pledge toward that end.

Jones, who spoke in front of 60,000 people in New York City and tens of thousands more online and on TV, noted the state of emergency that the governor of New York state recently declared to combat a resurgence of polio in the region.



Rotary President Jennifer Jones announces on 24 September Rotary's \$150 million pledge toward polio eradication efforts at the 2022 Global Citizen Festival in New York City.

Photo by David Alexander/ Shot on an iPhone 12pro

Jones stressed that polio is preventable through vaccines and that wild poliovirus is endemic in only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Although female vaccinators are critical to building relationships with mothers and reaching children in these areas, they sometimes can face harassment or even attacks.

In Pakistan, "frontline female health workers put themselves at risk every day," Jones said. "They are committed, even with obstacles, to reaching every last child with polio vaccines." The vaccination program works with the local police and government to ensure the safety of these health workers.

Jones talked about the effect of polio vaccinations in some countries being disrupted by COVID-19. She pointed out that in 2021, about 25 million children went without critical immunizations. "The world has beaten back this disease significantly, but we must redouble efforts," Jones said.

The additional funding Jones announced will go to the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#), which said in August that it was seeking new funding commitments for its 2022-26 polio eradication strategy. "We want this to be the start of a massive effort to reach the initiative's US\$4.8 billion funding goal," Jones said.

Rotary members have been at the center of the worldwide effort to eradicate polio for more than three decades. Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and helped found the GPEI in 1988, when there were an estimated 350,000 polio cases across more than 125 countries in one year. Since then, cases have plummeted more than 99.9%, sparing more than 20 million people from paralysis. Rotary has helped immunize nearly 3 billion children against polio, contributed more than US\$2.6 billion to global polio eradication efforts, and helped secure more than US\$10 billion from donor governments.

[The Global Citizen Festival](#), an annual music celebration, urges world leaders to end extreme poverty, take action on climate change, empower girls and women, and dismantle systematic barriers. This year's Global Citizen Festival, which took place in New York City and in Accra, Ghana, called on global leaders to invest US\$600 million into the future of women and girls, narrow the US\$10 billion climate change shortfall, and provide US\$500 million to help farmers in Africa to respond to the global hunger crisis.

The New York component, hosted by actor and Global Citizen ambassador Priyanka Chopra Jonas, included performances from Metallica, Charlie Puth, Jonas Brothers, Måneskin, Mariah Carey, Mickey Guyton, Rosalía, Angélique Kidjo, and Billy Porter. Presenters included celebrities Amber Ruffin, Bill Nye, Connie Britton, Katie Couric, Tamron Hall, Katie Holmes, and more.

Global Citizen says that since its first concert in 2012, more than US\$41 billion in funding has been dispersed that's affected the lives of more than 1.1 billion people.

Jones urged people to get involved: "Global citizens, use your voice — help us call on governments, businesses, and other leaders to join us in pledging ambitiously at the World Health Summit in October to end polio forever."

Rotary has worked with Global Citizen for a more than decade, primarily regarding the effort to eradicate polio worldwide. At last year's event in Paris, France, Jones announced \$97 million pledge for sustainable project. At the 2012 concert in New York City, Rotary General Secretary and CEO John Hewko announced Rotary's \$75 million commitment to polio eradication. Rotary and Global Citizen have also connected at Rotary International Conventions, the Commonwealth Heads of Governments Meetings, polio

advocacy events, and polio funding announcements.

Source: www.rotary.org

Watch World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond

The livestream of Rotary International and the World Health Organization's [World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond: A healthier future for mothers and children](#) two-day conference begins Friday, 21 October.

Join [Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#), WHO director-general, and RI President [Jennifer Jones](#), as they discuss the state of polio eradication and its broader relevance to global health. This conference will address not only the status of polio eradication and what's next, but also the potential for community-based solutions to improve global health, particularly as it relates to maternal-child health.



World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond
21-22 October
on.rotary.org/3B7DzAn

Our Foundation Newsletter



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