

Rotary Express



Service Above Self

Rotary Club of Harrisonville - Rotary District 6080 - Club 2368

www.harrisonvillerotary.com

February 20, 2008



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Google gives Rotary US\$3.5 million to help end polio

By Dan Nixon

Rotary International News - 14 February 2008

Rotary International has received a US\$3.5 million challenge grant from the Google Foundation, a nonprofit managed by Google.org, in support of Rotary's top goal to eradicate polio worldwide. Rotary will raise funds to match the Google Foundation grant dollar-for-dollar over one year.

The grant and matching funds will directly support polio immunization activities carried out by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a partnership spearheaded by the World Health Organization, Rotary International, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Following the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$100 million grant to Rotary in November, Google.org represents another response to the call for support by Rotary and its partners to finish polio," says Dr. Robert S. Scott, trustee chair of The Rotary Foundation. "Both challenge grants reflect strong confidence in Rotary's leadership role in working relentlessly to help achieve this vital public health goal for the world's children."

Eradicating polio has been Rotary's number-one priority since 1985. To date, Rotary has helped immunize nearly two billion children and contributed \$650 million to the GPEI, a figure that will rise to more than \$850 million by the time the world is certified polio-free.

Globally, the number of polio cases has fallen from 350,000 annually in the mid-1980s to approximately 2,000 cases in 2006. The GPEI has succeeded in slashing the number of cases by 99 percent and decreased the number of polio-endemic countries from 125 to just 4: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

"This grant comes at a crucial time for the initiative, as more funds are needed to reach children in the most challenging regions of the world," says RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkin-son. "We have the technical tools to beat polio, and we're almost there. All we need is for the rest of the world to follow the Google Foundation's lead in supporting the effort to eradicate this vaccine-preventable disease once and for all."

MEETINGS

Wednesdays at noon
The Branding Iron
in Landmark Plaza

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS

Teresa Hensley 2/5
Daryl Veatch 2/6
Rick Grabill 2/9
Jim Clayton 2/10
Gabe Sweitzer 2/11
Jack Combs 2/15
Phil Klinkhardt 2/23
Dave Kauffman 2/25

THIS MONTH'S ANNIVERSARIES

Jack Combs 2/16

4 WAY TEST

Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better
friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Feb20 Richard Lloyd
Feb 27 Daryl Bohannon
Mar 5 Dianna Wright
Mar 12 ?????
Mar 19 Teresa Hensley
Mar 26 Pat Tillery

Newsletter Contact Information

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February is World Understanding Month