



Rotary eClub
of the Southwest USA
A Rotary International eClub

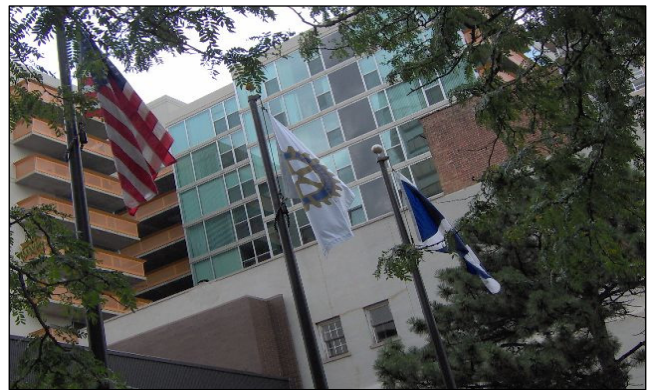
Rushton's Intro: Time to take a tour! Our member at Rotary HQ, Rick Barrett, treats us today to the PolioPlus exhibit at One Rotary Center. Let's celebrate all that we have accomplished in the effort to end polio by making an extra donation! I'll provide a link at the end, should you be so moved.

Welcome to One Rotary Center!





Located at 1560 Sherman Avenue in downtown Evanston, One Rotary Center is 12.7 miles/20.4 kilometers north of the Chicago city center. Rotary International purchased this 18-story building from the American Hospital Supply Company in 1987.



Outside, there are always three flags flying: the flag of the United States of America, that of Rotary International, and the flag of the home country of the current RI President. From 1 July 2009 – 30 June 2010, the flag of Scotland will be flown in honor of RI President Kenny.



There is also a statue dedicated to PolioPlus with a plaque that reads:

PolioPlus is the vision of a world free from Poliomyelitis, a disease feared for centuries. In 1986, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International mounted two efforts – a fund-raising campaign to provide large quantities of vaccine, and an immunization program to deliver the vaccine to children around the world. Both efforts achieved unparalleled success: the campaign raised twice the initial goal of US \$120 million,

and the immunization effort brought praise and support from health authorities worldwide. This statue symbolizes the commitment of countless Rotarians who are making their vision a reality and the world a healthier place for millions of children.

The lobby of One Rotary Center now features a museum-quality End Polio Now display, and this will be the focus of this program. I have provided limited commentary, as the exhibit largely speaks for itself. I have tried to capture the exhibit in its entirety, but I feel my pictures really don't do it justice.



(picture text follows)

Poliomyelitis (polio), a highly infectious disease, is triggered by a virus that invades the nervous system and can cause muscle paralysis and other serious health complications.

Polio mainly strikes children under five years of age. Once a worldwide health threat, the wild poliovirus is now endemic in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.



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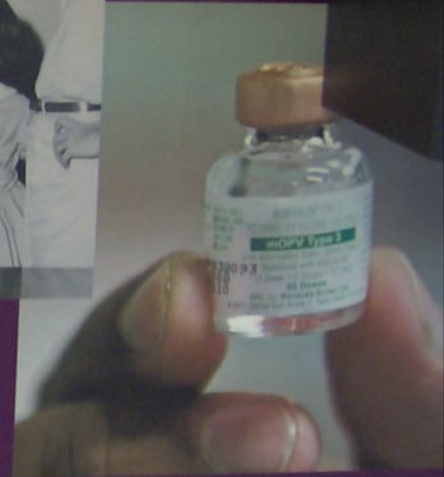
Thanks to the development of the polio vaccine in the 1950s, the disease is now preventable.

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Courtesy: Center for the History of the Health Professions, University of Cincinnati Libraries



March of Dimes





Today, Rotary International and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative - the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - are immunizing children worldwide to reach the goal of a polio-free world.

Rotary Responds

Rotarians' concern for those afflicted by crippling diseases dates back to 1921 with the formation of the National Society for Crippled Children (now the Easter Seals Society) by Rotarian Edgar F. "Daddy" Allen. Rotary founder Paul Harris served as chairman of the organization, which received strong support from Rotary clubs and the first donation — in 1929 for \$500 — made by the fledgling Rotary Foundation.

1979 The Rotary Foundation's first Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant is made to immunize five million children in the Philippines against polio.

1985 Rotary International launches PolioPlus, the

A collage of three black and white historical photographs. The top photo shows a group of people in a meeting or office setting. The bottom-left photo shows a close-up of a person's face, possibly a child. The bottom-right photo shows an elderly man with a white beard, likely Paul Harris, sitting at a desk and writing.

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1985 Rotary International launches PolioPlus, the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sector support of a public health initiative, with a goal of \$120 million.

1988 Rotarians' fundraising efforts generate \$247 million for PolioPlus, more than double their goal.

The World Health Assembly unanimously adopts a resolution to eradicate polio.

1994 The Western Hemisphere is declared polio-free. The last indigenous

case of polio in the Americas — Luis Fermin of Peru — was found in 1991.

1995 At India's first National Immunization Day, 82 million children receive the polio vaccine.

1996 Nelson Mandela officially launches Kick Polio Out of Africa, with players from the African Football Confederation participating in public awareness campaigns.

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2002 - The 51 countries in the European region are certified polio-free. The region's last indigenous case of polio - Melik Minas of Turkey - was reported in 1998.

2003 - Rotary's Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign raises \$119 million, reaching \$135 million by 2005.

2006 - The number of polio-endemic countries falls to four: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Polio cases worldwide have dropped 99 percent since 1985.

2007 - The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awards Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication.

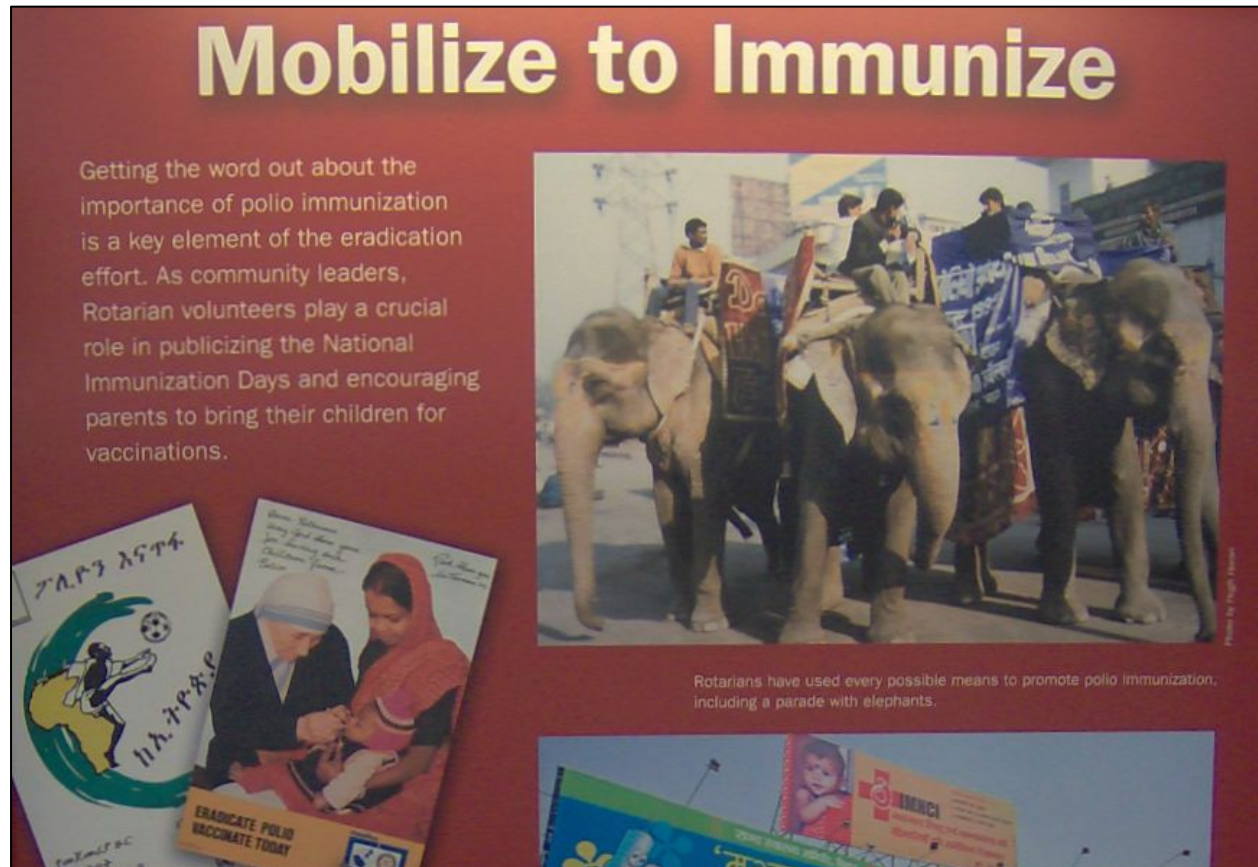
2009 - The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awards Rotary an additional \$255 million for polio eradication.

The original of the picture of the four men above was taken at the 2009 International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. From left to right: Trustee Chairman Jonathan Majiyagbe, RI President Dong Kurn Lee, Bill Gates, Jr., and RI President-Elect John Kenny (note that the

titles listed were the ones extant at the time the picture was taken). This photo was taken shortly after Mr. Gates announced The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's additional U.S. \$255 million commitment to eradicating Polio.

Mobilize to Immunize

Getting the word out about the importance of polio immunization is a key element of the eradication effort. As community leaders, Rotarian volunteers play a crucial role in publicizing the National Immunization Days and encouraging parents to bring their children for vaccinations.



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Rotarians in polio-free countries supply posters and banners publicizing immunization days, along with small gifts for the immunized children.

Tracking the Wild Virus



A network of 145 specialized laboratories enables the teams to quickly detect new polio cases.

At the lab, virologists isolate poliovirus and determine if any of the three types of wild virus are present.



Surveillance is a key strategy for eradicating polio. Health workers in the field identify new cases of acute flaccid paralysis that is indicative of polio. Expert teams of virologists, epidemiologists, and doctors test stool samples to determine whether the poliovirus is present and where it came from.



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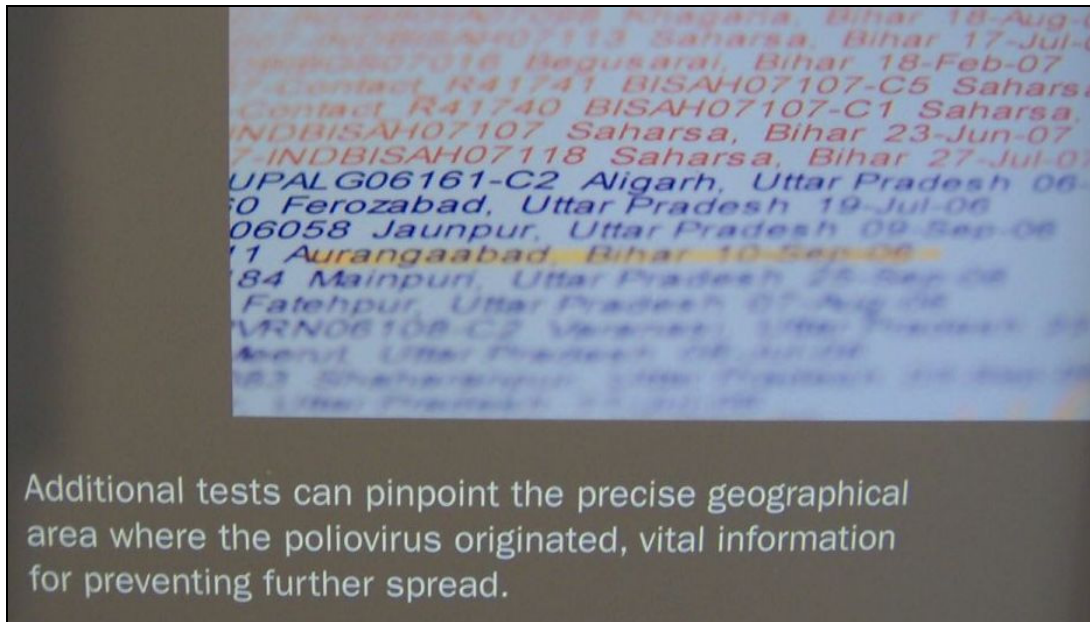


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Additional tests can pinpoint the precise geographical area where the poliovirus originated, vital information for preventing further spread.

National Immunization Days

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Rotarians provide many of the essential supplies needed to carry out NIDs. A single NID in India involves:

- 709,000 vaccination booths
- 1.17 million vaccination teams
- 225 million doses of polio vaccine
- 2 million vaccine carriers
- 6.3 million ice packs to keep the vaccine cold
- 209 million homes visited
- 172 million children immunized

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With 33,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas, Rotary reaches out to national governments worldwide to generate crucial financial and technical support for polio eradication. Since 1995, the advocacy efforts of Rotary and its partners have helped raise more than \$4.1 billion in vital funding from donor governments.

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The Ulema Committee for Polio Eradication, established by Rotary International in 2007, is composed of leading Muslim experts in Islamic law who are reassuring their communities that the polio vaccine is both safe and in accordance with Islamic principles.

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A World without Polio

The world will be certified polio-free three years after the last case of polio associated with the wild poliovirus is reported, using prescribed surveillance standards, and after all wild poliomyelitis stocks have been appropriately contained. Once Polio has been eradicated, immunization, treatment, and rehabilitation costs will drop dramatically, with savings potentially exceeding \$1 billion a year.

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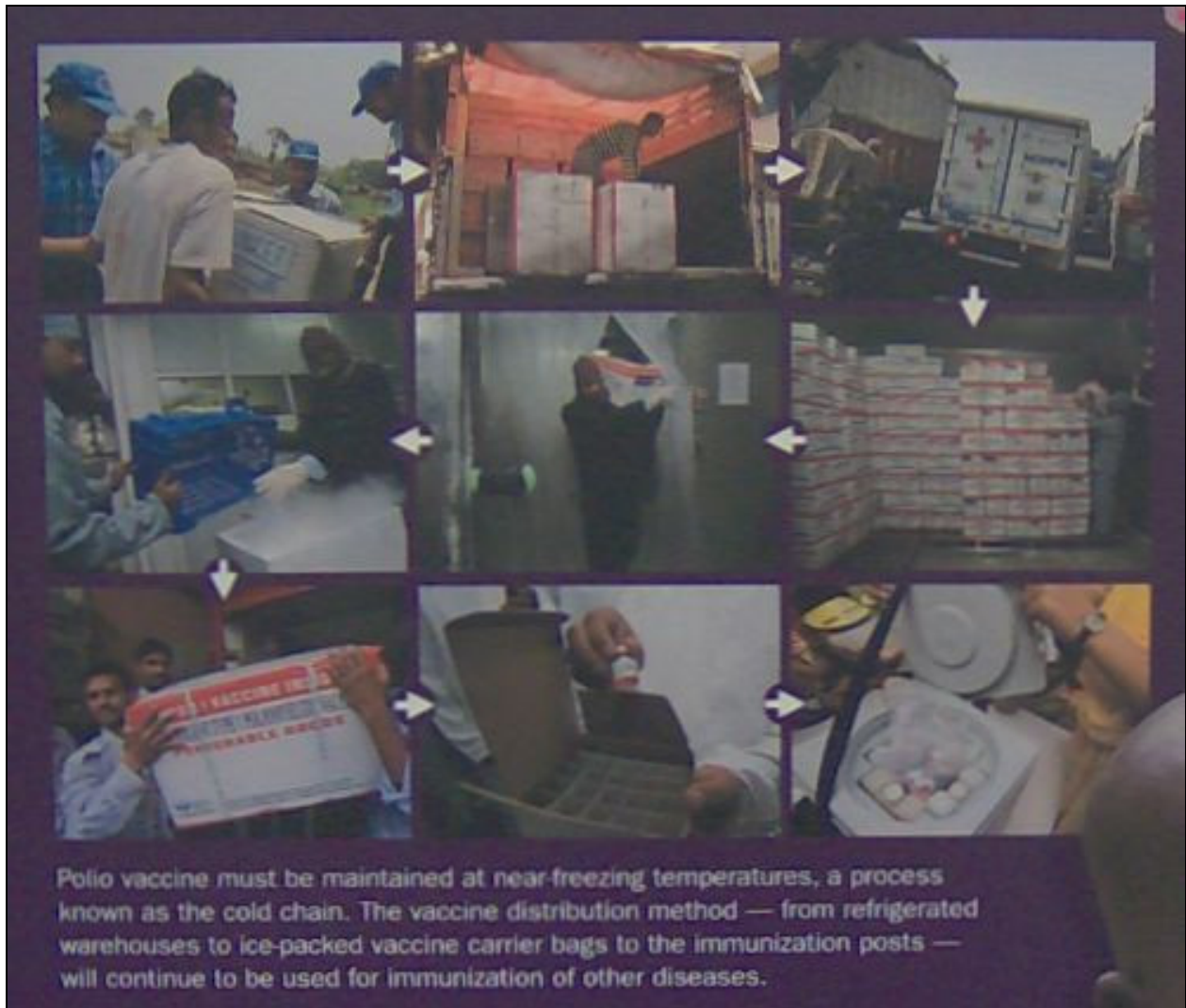
Global Polio Eradication Laboratory Network

WHO labs/institutes testing for:

- Polio
- Polio and measles/rubella
- Polio, measles/rubella, and yellow fever
- Polio and/or measles/rubella and Japanese encephalitis

Data as of August 2007

The global polio laboratory network will remain in operation, helping public health officials identify, track, and respond quickly to outbreaks of other diseases.



Polio vaccine must be maintained at near-freezing temperatures, a process known as the cold chain. The vaccine distribution method - from refrigerated warehouses to ice-packed vaccine carrier bags to the immunization posts - will continue to be used for immunization of other diseases.



Global Polio Eradication Laboratory Network

WHO labs/institutes testing for:

- polio (blue)
- polio and measles/rubella (red)
- polio, measles/rubella, and yellow fever (yellow)
- polio and/or measles/rubella and Japanese encephalitis (green)

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"The legacy of Rotary's PolioPlus program will go well beyond the eradication of one of the most devastating diseases known to mankind. It will also leave behind stronger health systems in some of the poorest countries in the world, enabling them to tackle other important health threats, particularly in the area of immunizations and communicable disease."

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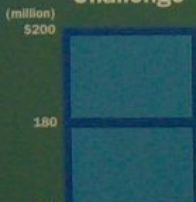
Help Meet the Challenge

**GOOD-BYE POLIO
THANKS ROTARY**



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

Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge



The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation awarded Rotary International a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication in 2007 and an additional \$255 million grant in 2009. Rotarians must raise matching funds to meet Rotary’s US\$200 Million Challenge by 30 June 2012. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in countries where polio continues to infect and paralyze children. By the time the world is certified polio-free, Rotary will have contributed more than \$1.2 billion to the eradication effort.

More than 10 million children will be paralyzed in the next 40 years if the world fails to capitalize on its \$6 billion investment in global polio eradication. By contributing to Rotary’s US\$200 Million Challenge, you can help Rotary achieve a polio-free world.

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The ink stain on each girl's finger indicates she has just received the Polio vaccine.





A sampling of items created by Rotarians for use in social mobilization efforts are shown to the left.

One can find additional information about Rotary's

efforts to eradicate Polio on the RI website:

<http://snurl.com/RIPolioPlus>

This concludes the tour of the PolioPlus exhibit at One Rotary Center. I hope you have enjoyed the program, and I look forward to your comments.

Thanks, Rick!

Those wanting to help with the US\$200 Million Challenge are welcome to make a donation at: <http://www.rotary.org/en/EndPolio>