



Rotary Wheeling

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SERVING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Rotary Club of Monterey Pacific • Thursdays 5:15 pm • www.montereypacificrotary.org

I AM ROTARY

Ben Beesley,
Rotarian since 2005.
Realtor,
Keller Williams Realty



DiAnna Gamecho,
Rotarian since 2006.
School Administrator,
Pacific Grove High
School

Geoff Cook,
Rotarian since 2005.
Insurance Agent,
Farmers Insurance



Mary Nina Hill,
Rotarian since 2005.
Asst. Manager,
Paul Mortuary

Rotary's Challenge reaches US\$200 million

Rotary International has succeeded in meeting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US\$200 million match in funding for polio eradication, raising more than \$202.6 million as of 17 January.

The fundraising milestone was reached in response to \$355 million in challenge grants awarded to The Rotary Foundation by the Gates Foundation. All funds have been earmarked to support polio immunization activities in affected countries where the vaccine-preventable disease continues to paralyze children.

Since 1988, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 cases annually to fewer than 650 cases reported so far for 2011. The wild poliovirus is now endemic in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, India on 13 January marked a full calendar year without a case, paving the way for its removal from the endemic list.

But other countries also remain at risk for polio cases imported from the endemic countries. In Africa in 2011, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had significant outbreaks. Also in 2011, a small cluster of polio cases in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was traced to Pakistan.

To date, Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio, a cause Rotary took on in 1985. In 1988, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined Rotary as spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. More recently, the Gates Foundation has become a major supporter. In 2007, the Gates Foundation gave Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication, increasing it to \$355 million in 2009. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million in matching funds by 30 June 2012.

Reaching children with the oral polio vaccine in the disease's remaining strongholds is labor- and resource-intensive due to a host of challenges, including poor infrastructure, geographical isolation, armed conflict, and cultural misunderstanding about the eradication campaign.



WE HAVE A NEW MEETING LOCATION
Mariposa Inn and Suites
1386 Munras Ave. (corner of Munras Ave and Soledad Dr.)
5:15p-6:15p, every Thursday
Guest Welcome

Upcoming Speakers

Thursday, February 16th
Libby Downey,
Monterey City Council
Mariposa Inns and Suites

Thursday, March 1st
Pam Norton,
Rotacare
Mariposa Inns and Suites

Thursday, March 8th
Chris Harrold,
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Mariposa Inns and Suites

You can follow our programs and other events at www.MontereyPacificRotary.org.

 Give the gift of financial strength.

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Are you interested in being seen
on this Rotary page which runs the second Tuesday of every month?
CALL SUSAN AT THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD • 831.646-4383