

# NEWS RELEASE

**The Rotary Club of [CLUB NAME] will mark historic progress toward a polio-free world while urging the community to help end the paralyzing disease**

*Event is among thousands to be held by Rotary clubs around the world on World Polio Day, 24 October*

**[CITY, STATE or PROVINCE] ([DATE] October 2019)** — Rotary members in **[CITY]** are taking action on World Polio Day to raise awareness, funds, and support to end polio, a vaccine-preventable disease that still threatens children in parts of the world today.

**[BRIEF EVENT DESCRIPTION]**

**WHAT:**

**WHO:**

**WHEN:**

**WHERE:**

When Rotary and its partners launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative more than three decades ago, polio paralyzed 1,000 children every day. We’ve made great progress against the disease since then. Polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 cases in 1988 in 125 countries to 33 cases of wild poliovirus in 2018 in just two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. And we remain committed to the end.

With polio nearly eradicated, Rotary and its partners must sustain this progress and continue to reach every child with the polio vaccine. Without full funding and political commitment, this paralyzing disease could return to polio-free countries, putting children everywhere at risk. Rotary has committed to raising US$50 million each year to support global polio eradication efforts. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has pledged to match that 2-to-1, for a total yearly contribution of $150 million.

**[QUOTE FROM ROTARY MEMBER ORGANIZING THE EVENT]**

Rotary has contributed more than $1.9 billion to ending polio since 1985, including **[LOCAL FUNDRAISING FIGURES]** donated by the Rotary Club of **[CLUB NAME]**.

**About Rotary**

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities around the globe. For more than 110 years, Rotary’s people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to improve lives through service. From promoting literacy and peace to providing clean water and improving health care, Rotary members are always working to better the world. Visit [endpolio.org](file:///C:\Users\kahlerj\AppData\Local\Temp\Temp1_wpd2018materials-en.zip\wpd2018materials-en\endpolio.org) to learn more about Rotary and the fight to eradicate polio.

**CONTACT:**

**EMAIL:**

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endpolio.org

**[CLUB WEBSITE]**