



March 2008

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## What's New?

### March Open Projects List

The PolioPlus Partners program expects to receive over US\$5 million in project requests in 2007-08. The March PolioPlus Partners Open Projects List (OPL) contains five polio eradication projects in need of a total of **US\$913,694**.

### National Immunization Day Trips

Rotarians from the United States, Canada, and The Netherlands traveled to India and Nigeria to take part in polio immunization activities during the month of February. Director Kjell-Åke Åkesson, Trustee Carolyn Jones, and Director Michael Johns participated in kick off ceremonies in India and Nigeria.

Details on these immunization activities can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

### **Need more information?**

Contact the PolioPlus program -  
 Phone: 1-847-866-3305  
 Fax: 1-847-866-0269  
 E-mail: [polioplus@rotary.org](mailto:polioplus@rotary.org)

# PolioPlus in Action

## Google Foundation Challenge Grant

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.

[Read more.](#)

## Gates Foundation Challenge Grant

**Trustee Chair sounds the call to Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge**  
 Trustee Chair Bob Scott spoke about the challenge grant during a recent Rotary media interview. [Read more](#)

### **Tips for funding Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge**

In the push to finish polio, Rotarians are pressing ahead with Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge to match the \$100 million grant received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The nearly 33,000 Rotary clubs in the world are each being asked to contribute at least \$1,000 annually for three years. Here are some ways your club or district can set its creative wheels in motion:

- Auction or raffle off a luxury car, boat, or house built as a vocational service project, vacation packages, tickets to sports events.
- Create special items for sale, including CDs, DVDs, cookbooks, craftwork, and Push to End Polio T-shirts, bumper stickers, and toy bears.
- Organize special events such as a walkathon, telethon, golf tournament, car rally, festival, fun fair, flea market, variety show.

On New Year's Day 2008, 20 hardy District 7190 (New York, USA) Rotarians, dubbed the "Polar Bears,"

plunged into the frigid waters of Lake George to raise \$25,000 in support of Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge.



*District 7190 Polar Bears warm up after their "end-polio" plunge. From left: PDG Anne Cargile, DGE Mike Popolizio, and DG Harriet Noble. Photo courtesy of Harriet Noble*

TRF Ambassadorial Scholar Alumna Becky Smith Lanier generously contributed \$15,000 to the PolioPlus Partners program in support of Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge. Thank you Becky!!

## Monthly Update

### **UN secretary-general meets with Rotary leaders**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with Rotary leaders and praised Rotarians for their commitment to polio eradication in a recent visit to Chicago. [Read more](#)

### **Global Polio Eradication Initiative**

### **Rotary's US\$ 100 Million Challenge launched to Rotary Clubs to end polio**

A giant Rotary wheel and the words "End Polio Now" were beamed onto the side of the House of Commons to the left of Big Ben in London,



England on Rotary International's 103rd Birthday on Saturday, 23rd February.

[Read more](#)

**Polio eradication top priority, says Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister**  
One of two polio-endemic states in India. [Read more](#)

**WHO DG Margaret Chan in Nigeria and Angola to support countries' efforts to wipe out disease.** [Read more](#)

**Displacement of people from Chad, risk of polio outbreak.** [Read more](#)

**Hands Up for Polio Eradication.** [Read more](#)

## Progress Report

Visit the Global Polio Eradication Initiative Web site for the most up-to-date progress report information, including:

- ⇒ [Total cases in 2007 compared to 2006, including case breakdown and information by country](#)
- ⇒ [Monthly Situation Report](#)

## National Immunization Day Trips

During the month of February 2008 Rotarians organized trips to participate in National Immunization Day activities in India and Immunization Plus Days in Nigeria.

PDG Elias Thomas from Maine, USA led a group of Rotarians to India. You can read about his trip through his online [blog](#).

Diana Bakker from The Netherlands also led a group of Rotarians to India.



Children in India show off their "Team Holland Kicks Polio Out" t-shirts.



Director Åkesson leads a polio parade in India.



Trustee Jones immunizes a child in India.

Dave Groner from Michigan, USA and Ann Lee Hussey from Maine, USA led a group of Rotarians to Nigeria.



Rotarian Ann Lee Hussey meets a polio survivor in Nigeria.



Director Johns delivers a speech at a kick off ceremony in Nigeria.

For a list of Rotarians who have organized NID trips in the past send an email to [polioplus@rotary.org](mailto:polioplus@rotary.org).

## Tools & Resources

**Polio PowerPoint Presentation**  
A shortened version of Trustee Chair Bob Scott's PowerPoint presentation from the 2008 International Assembly

is available for club presentations. If interested in receiving a copy, send an email to [polioplus@rotary.org](mailto:polioplus@rotary.org).

### Polio Facts and Figures

Need to know the cost of vaccine per child or the number of polio endemic countries? The updated polio facts and figures as of January 2008 are available on the [RI website](#).

### Rotary Channel on YouTube

Watch polio videos and public service announcements online on the Rotary International channel of [YouTube](#).

## Media Relations Corner

Listed below are several recent media stories that have featured or mentioned Rotary's work in polio eradication.

**Business Recorder**  
**Karachi, Pakistan**

March 10, 2008

Rotary, Gates join hands for polio eradication

**Oneida Dispatch**

March 10, 2008

Rotarians make a passage to India

**Voice of America**

March 3, 2008

Fight to end polio: a story of unexpected problems, but also progress

**Daily Trust**

**Abuja, Nigeria**

February 27, 2008

Nigeria: Rotary commits US\$650 million to polio eradication

**The New Indian Express**

February 26, 2008

Google donates \$3.5 million to polio eradication

**The Enquirer**

**Cincinnati, Ohio**

February 23, 2008

Rotary International head speaks about polio eradication

**BBC 24**

February 23, 2008

Aired interview with Rotary polio notable Gautam Lewis in connection with Rotary's 103rd anniversary and Rotary wheel projected on the Houses of Parliament.