

The Johns Join the Polio Immunisation Drive

For TRF Trustee John Germ and RI General Secretary John Hewko, November 13, 2011 will be a special day out. They woke up early to join the dedicated band of Rotarians in Mumbai led by District Governor Vijay Jalan to administer the polio vaccine to children. Rotarians in Mumbai have always been very careful in ensuring that the sub-NIDs are taken very seriously. The Polio Sunday is the day most Rotarians shed their lethargy and take to the streets literally. They know that the city, which has a huge population and constantly attracts migrants from all over India, has to be free from polio. There are some areas in this metropolis which can be considered as unfit for living. But it is in these narrow lanes and by-lanes that children live and grow up.

The two top RI functionaries, who were accompanied by their spouses, had a firsthand experience on how the micro level planning is being done during the NIDs. As the entire country is now gearing up for the NID sometime in January 2012, preparations are in full swing at the Rotary club level to ensure that no child is left out.

The magnitude of this operation where nearly 180 million children get the polio vaccine on one single day can be understood only by people who experience it on that day or get a feel of it during a sub-NID. TRF Trustee John Germ and RI General Secretary John Hewko went to the vaccine distribution centre and learnt about the activities that the Rotarians do and how they support the efforts of the State



We are this close to ending polio.

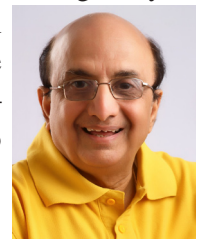
Government in the immunisation drive.

Both the Johns' were excited as they religiously administered the vaccine to more than 60 children during the day. Their spouses were not bothered about the soaring temperature during the day or the filth and squalor that they saw while negotiating the lanes to reach the drops to the children who needed it most. This was Rotary's commitment to ensure that India became polio-free and so did the other three countries in the near future.

The Rotarians of RC Deonar, Chembur took extra effort to make the programme memorable to the visitors from USA. The sentiments of these two stalwarts was evident during the subsequent days at Kolkata when they declared that administering the polio vaccine to

the children was the most memorable experience they had in Rotary.

Rotary is full of memorable experiences. Every year we make sure that millions of children are immunised. Our enthusiasm does not start and end with the NID. It is the result which comes after that—a result we have been wanting to hear and celebrate during this year when Rtn. Kalyan Banerjee is the RI President—“India is a Polio Free Country.”



*Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation
Director, Rotary International
2007–2009
Member, International PolioPlus
Committee*