

Unposted letter

End
Polio Now

Dear Rotary Club Presidents,
Greetings.

In 1985, Rotary International committed to help immunise the world's children against polio with the dream target of a polio-free world by 2005. Over the last two and half decades, Rotarians world over have done everything needed: raised funds, assisted in vaccine delivery, carried out intensive social mobilisation efforts and pursued advocacy with the Government and the leaders of all hues and colours. Dubbed as "Conscience of Global Polio Eradication Programme," Rotary is the leading partner in the programme.

Pulse Polio Immunisation programme started in India in 1995 as a result of Rotary's strong advocacy, which led to the immunisation of millions of children and significantly brought down the number of polio incidences. Rotary has contributed over US \$106.04 million (Rs. 530 crores) to the Polio Immunisation efforts in India. Experts have a feeling that India is seeing the last cases of polio and that the disease could soon become history in the country.

As Rotarians we must do everything possible to continue this momentum in order to rid our country and the world of this crippling and deadly disease. Every single member of Rotary Parivar (Rotarians, Anns, Rotaractors, Interactors, Inner Wheel sisters, Members of RCCs) should be involved in the programme. A massive people's movement has to get under way to send across the message "END POLIO NOW." The world expects India to win this battle as their eyes are presently focused on India's polio eradication efforts.

So, who will make this possible? Its YOU - The Rotary Club Presidents. You have the unqualified support of the entire Rotary world. The world is counting on you, each one of you for an achievement that is within reach. As IPPC Chair Dr. Bob Scott puts it, "Polio eradication must be the top priority of every club." Reaching the last child with two drops of polio vaccine should be the ultimate goal of the entire Rotary Parivar.

During 2009-10 there will be as many as seven to eight rounds (1 NID and 3 SNID implemented till date) of Pulse Polio Immunisation all over the country on Polio Sundays (NIDs/SNIDs). Additional "target-zero" mop up immunisation activities will be carried out whenever and wherever wild polio virus is detected.

This is the final push for polio eradication in the country. The quality and coverage of immunisation during these rounds will be crucial for our success. As the leader of your club, you will have to ensure that every Rotary family participates on those dates. The PolioPlus committee of your club must be enthused and charged with this task. The National Committee will guide and assist you from time to time and as required. I am privileged to be your representative on the International PolioPlus Committee, and be assured of my commitment towards reaching these goals with you.

Your term as the President promises to be an amazing journey. Those who have served before you have lovingly forged much of the path you will soon walk. Let your journey end up with a polio-free world, thus fulfilling our promise. Let us all join hands in celebrating Rotary in a polio-free world.



Rtn. Ashok Mahajan
Trustee, The Rotary Foundation 2009-2013
Director, Rotary International 2007-2009