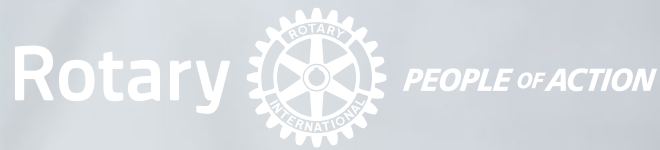


TOGETHER, WE

TRANSFORM





HELP US KEEP OUR PROMISE

I WAS a district governor in 1987-88, the year that Charles Keller, who sadly passed away in May, was president of Rotary International. As district governor, I attended the 1988 Rotary International Convention in Philadelphia, US. There, I heard that there were an estimated 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries. But I also heard some exciting news: We had surpassed our goal of raising \$120 million for the eradication of polio. We had raised \$219,350,449 (and later, after the accounting was done, that figure was revised to \$247 million). What a celebration we had. We proved to ourselves and the world the strength of Rotary and that we could take on a global health challenge.

In the ensuing 30 years, we, along with our partners – the World Health Organisation, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – have raised even more funds, organised National Immunisation Days, and advocated with world governments. Our goal has always been to keep our promise to give children a polio-free world, and in 2017, there were only 22 cases.

We've done incredible work, but we know the job isn't over. Once we reduce the number of cases to zero, and no viruses are detected in the environment, we must wait for WHO to certify the world officially polio free. That requires at least a three-year period without a single detection of the wild poliovirus in a person or the environment. During that three years, we will still have to vaccinate children and ensure, through surveillance, that the virus never regains a foothold.

Rotarians have always been on the front lines of this effort – we still are. So, what can you do? Tell everyone you know about Rotary and polio. Make a donation. Update your club and explore how, together, you could participate directly in the fight.

On October 24, we'll celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's formation at our sixth annual World Polio Day event, in Philadelphia, the city where it all began. Host a World Polio Day fundraiser or watch party and tell us about it at endpolio.org/promote-your-event. For more inspiration, check out endpolio.org.

I need your help. I'm depending on you to help us keep our promise.

Ron Burton
Foundation Trustee Chair