



“ The world trusts Rotary to spend its money wisely... I’m excited to be a partner – a partner with Rotary until the job is done... We must, must, must finish the eradication project... When Rotary speaks, the world listens... ”

*Bill Gates, former CEO Microsoft*

## Eradicating polio - the final chapter

The world is on the verge of eliminating one of the most dreaded diseases - poliomyelitis. During the first half of the 20th century, polio crippled over a half a million people every year.

Polio knows no borders. Carriers frequently move from one country to another and the virus can reappear in previously polio-free countries. In 2007 there were cases of polio in nine African countries although polio is only endemic in one of them. But, thanks in large part to Rotary International and to the 1.2 million Rotary members worldwide, the disease will soon be all but a memory.

One of the greatest challenges to the effort is a funding shortage. Much needed assistance will come from Rotary. To date, Rotary has contributed US\$633 million to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. Rotary reaches out to governments to obtain vital financial and technical support. Since 1995, donor governments have contributed more than \$3 billion to polio eradication, due in part to Rotary’s advocacy efforts.

Once eradicated, polio will join smallpox as one of only two diseases ever eliminated. And, Rotary will continue serving as a leader in humanitarian programmes, with the hope that its success will inspire others to work in similar ways for the public good.



You  
can  
change  
her  
life  
forever

### THIS IS ROTARY ~ HUMANITY IN MOTION



Rotary members are enthusiastic and active volunteers who give their time and talents to serve communities both at home and overseas. They are dedicated people - men and women from business and professions - who share a common interest in helping others. Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) has over 55,000 members in 1,840 clubs. It is an integral part of Rotary International, the world's first service organisation. Each member enjoys business as well as social networking opportunities, while giving something back to those less fortunate, learning new skills and having a huge amount of fun!

Rotary runs countless humanitarian projects - locally, nationally and internationally - and also partners with charities worldwide, organising community projects that address many of today's critical issues, such as violence, drug abuse, health, hunger, the environment, and illiteracy.

They work for and with young people to address their particular challenges. Interact and Rotaract are also part of the Rotary family, with similar club structures for young people aged 14-18 and 18-30 respectively

**Thanks for Life**  **END POLIO NOW**  
Rotary Day - February 23, 2010