



ROTARY NEWS

END POLIO NOW !

Scroll down on the home page of www.samfordrotary.org.au and you will see a red badge displaying the words "END POLIO NOW"...

Rotary's PolioPlus campaign is now on the verge of eliminating one of the world's most dreaded diseases – poliomyelitis (polio).

Rotary has contributed more than US\$900 million and countless volunteer hours for the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries.

Rotary also reaches out to governments worldwide for support. Since 1995, donor governments have contributed in excess of \$6 billion to polio eradication.

During the first half of the 20th century, polio crippled over half a million people every year. Although the polio epidemics may be a distant memory to many, children in parts of Africa and Asia, notably in Nigeria, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, continue to fall victim to the disease.

After 25 years of perseverance and hard work, Rotary is on the brink of eradicating it. A very strong push is needed now to finally defeat this scourge.

In response to the challenge, Rotary accepted a US\$355 million grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which Rotary must match with an additional US\$200 million over three years, raising a much needed US\$555 million.

Yes, every day, we do draw closer to the goal of a polio-free world. However, so long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk.

The stakes are that high.

If you would like to know more about Rotary or our club, please contact Warren Hampton at whampton@bigpond.net.au