



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary. Humanity in motion.  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

## Rotary

at a Glance

**Established:**

February 23, 1905,  
in Chicago, Ill., USA

**Founder:**

Chicago lawyer  
Paul P. Harris

**Clubs:**

33,000 clubs in more  
than 200 countries and  
geographical regions

**Membership:**

1.2 million men  
and women

**Polio:**

In 1988, Rotary partnered  
with WHO, CDC, and UNICEF  
to launch the Global Polio  
Eradication Initiative.

## Experience

### Rotary

Rotary membership gives  
men and women an  
opportunity to forge new  
friendships and share the  
rewards of helping others  
through volunteer service.

The Rotary club meeting  
is a chance for members  
to socialize, network, and  
plan service activities  
based on local needs and  
their own interests and  
talents. In addition Rotary  
clubs often team up with  
clubs in other countries  
to carry out international  
service projects, enhancing  
members' cross-cultural  
understanding.

Rotary clubs are open  
to people of every race,  
culture, and creed.

To learn more about  
the rewards of Rotary  
membership, visit  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) or contact  
a Rotary club in your  
community.

# Rotary keeps the pressure on polio

Humanitarian organization  
partners with Gates Foundation  
to raise US\$555 million  
to end polio forever

For more than 20 years, Rotary clubs have remained determined to do whatever is necessary to achieve a world free of the crippling disease polio.

Recognizing this commitment — as well as Rotary's role as a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative — the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded Rotary challenge grants totaling US\$355 million, which Rotary

in most of the developed world — the World Health Organization's European Region was certified polio-free in 2002 — the disease still threatens children in parts of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Fortunately, for as little as 60 cents worth of oral polio vaccine, a child can be protected for life.

Since launching its landmark PolioPlus program in 1985, Rotary, an international humanitarian

**'I am excited that the Gates Foundation has joined Rotary in the fight against polio. We will be there with you when the fight is over.'**

— Bill Gates, cochair of the  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

will match with an additional \$200 million over three years. The resulting \$555 million will be spent in support of polio eradication activities in polio-endemic and high-risk countries.

This week, in celebration of Rotary's founding on February 23, 1905, Rotary clubs worldwide have arranged for key landmarks on two continents — including the Sydney Opera House, the British Houses of Parliament, and the Roman Coliseum — to be illuminated with the End Polio Now pledge.

The illuminations call attention to the fact that although polio epidemics may be a memory

could stage a dangerous comeback unless additional resources are secured, which is why Rotary and the Gates Foundation have forged this historic funding agreement.

Rotary readily accepted the funding challenge from the Gates Foundation. Rotary

ry's membership of 1.2 million women and men — representing 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas — embraced the effort by digging deeper into their own pockets, planning special fundraisers, and rallying community support. They know that

To learn how you can participate in this historic opportunity to end polio once and for all, please visit [rotary.org](http://rotary.org).



The British Parliament illuminated with Rotary's pledge to End Polio Now