mINUTARIAN from dg mark FOR mEETINGS THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 19, 2020



My Family of Rotary-

On October 24th Rotarians around the world will be celebrating World Polio Day with virtual gatherings, fundraisers, and other programs bringing to light awareness of what we have accomplished and what we have yet to do to eradicate polio.

Why should we care about a disease that is 99% gone worldwide and not an imminent threat to us here in the US? I am so glad you asked! Please let me explain in this seven and a half minute video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RL4zzNhUhUs&t=64s>

If you don’t have that amount of time to watch, then just know this:

1. In 1979 Rotary started their efforts to eradicate polio. It existed then in 129 countries. Now we are down to TWO!
2. If we do not finish what we started, you will find that it is just a plane ride away. In 10 years as many as 200,000 children could be paralyzed from polio.
3. A polio-free world will save the global economy $40-$50 billion in health costs within the next 20 years.

We can only stop the transmission of polio once there is no unprotected child left to pass it to. That means immunizing every last child. Every. Last. Child. Getting to zero transmissions is expensive, but if we abandon the fight now, one thing is certain: polio will come back.

It will regain ground in villages, towns and communities, everywhere that we have collectively made free of polio through our continued efforts. It will spread across borders and through children’s bodies, twisting muscles and shriveling limbs. The number of paralyzed children will rise again, to hundreds and thousands crippled each year by a disease we could have stopped.

I urge you to not abandon the struggle! Please be sure to join us on Oct. 24th for our virtual visit from The Rotary Foundation Chair, Ravi Ravindran. It will be inspiring and informative. I also urge every individual and club to donate to TRF to help end polio.

Yours in Rotary – DG Mark

Marilyn - In your cover message please ask clubs to watch the video at their meetings. If that is not possible, then they should share the Minutarian and the video link to each club member via email.