District’s Pars vs. Polio Golf Marathon Offers Chance to Help Eradicate Polio

District 6040’s first-ever Pars vs. Polio Golf Marathon will give all Rotary clubs and Rotarians in the District an opportunity to raise money for the worldwide polio eradication campaign and to tell our friends, neighbors and communities about the role Rotary and Rotarians have played in this massive effort.

Every club is urged to sign up from 2 to 4 golfers to play as many holes of golf as they can play in a single day and all club members are encouraged/challenged to raise as much money as possible by asking for pledges for the number of holes of golf to be played by a particular golfer. If fellow Rotarians obtain pledges totaling $50 per hole in support of a golfer, that golfer could raise $2,500 by playing just 50 holes on Golf Marathon Day.

I have asked 20 or so Rotarians around the District to be “Golf Champions” and promote competitions between teams within their clubs and between clubs in their geographic areas. The Golf Champions will help select golf courses in their areas where teams and individuals can play. In addition to these Golf Champions, I have urged all clubs to select a Club Golf Champion to promote participation in all clubs.

Golfers should be signed up and team competitions should be organized in July. In August, members should begin soliciting pledges in the community, and the golfers will play their “longest day of golf” at a local golf course in September. Then, members can collect their pledges and turn the money in to the clubs in October, and we will celebrate the results at the District Conference in November.

For every $1 we raise, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will donate $2 to Rotary, so $50,000 raised in District 6040 will produce a match of $100,000., and that’s a total of $150,000. That’s a great return on a day of fun and fund-raising!

For further information, contact:

Jerry Venters, Golf Marathon Chair
Kansas City Plaza Rotary Club
816-665-9272
jvrotary6040@yahoo.com
PARS VS. POLIO
District 6040 Golf Marathon
Join the Fight to End Polio

YOUR CHALLENGE:
- Recruit 2-4 Rotarian golfers to play their "longest day of Golf"
- Encourage every club member to solicit $1/hole or more in pledges from non-Rotarians in the community
- Challenge other Rotary Clubs to raise more money than your club
- Choose teams in your club to compete for pledges

Golfers will play as many holes of golf in one day as they are able - 18, 36, 54 or more! Play in September at your choice of golf courses.

For every $1 raised, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will contribute $2 to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus campaign to eradicate polio in the world! This is a great opportunity to ask others to help end this crippling disease once and for all.

Information: Pars Vs. Polio Chair, Jerry Venters, jvrotary6040@yahoo.com 816-665-9272.
CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE POLIO – FACT SHEET

• Polio is a horrible, crippling -- and often fatal -- disease that primarily affects children under 5 years of age
• In 1985 and for many years before that, polio killed or crippled more than 1,000 people a day
• In 1985, Rotary International launched “PolioPlus,” a multimillion dollar campaign to immunize the world’s children against polio
• In 1988, World Health Organization announced its goal to eradicate polio, and Rotarians and other organizations and governments joined the effort
• More than 2.5 billion children have been immunized
• Rotarians have contributed more than $1.2 billion to fight polio
• Globally, more than $9.5 billion has been spent so far in the campaign
• $5.5 billion projected as cost to complete eradication and certify the world as polio-free
• In 2013, only 400 cases of polio were reported worldwide, or just more than 1 person a day
• In 2014, polio is endemic in only three countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria
• In March 2014, India was certified as polio-free (no cases for three years)
• Eradicating polio completely will produce an economic benefit to the world of $40 to $50 billion over the next 20 years (as reported in medical journal, *Vaccine*)

For further information: www.endpolionow.org or www.rotary.org

Pars vs. Polio Timeline

May 1-30 – “Golf Champions” recruited throughout the District. Flyers to be used as promotional material mailed to clubs

July 1 – Article in initial 2014 District Newsletter; begin promotion with emails and through DG’s club visits; Golf Champions begin contacting golf courses as possible local venues for club competitions

August 1-September 15 – Clubs identify participating golfers and conduct pledge campaigns in communities; news releases issued to local media by clubs

September 1-30 – Golfers and teams play their rounds at local golf courses; Golf Champions may arrange area competitions at designated courses

October 1 -October 20 – Clubs collect pledges and remit in a single check* payable to “The Rotary Foundation” to Jerry Venters, 4726 N. Holly Ct., Kansas City, MO 64116.

November 8 – Results announced and celebrated at District Conference

*Individuals wishing to claim a tax-deductible donation may make their checks payable to TRF and should note their Rotary International member number on the memo line for Paul Harris Fellow credit. All checks should be routed through the clubs, however.
Pars v. Polio Golf Marathon

END POLIO NOW

How Your Club Can Raise $1,000 and Have Fun Doing It!

The District 6040 Pars v. Polio Golf Marathon is not your usual Rotary Club golf tournament, where golfers are asked to pay $125 or $250 or more to play 18 holes of golf on a given day.

Instead, this fundraiser is designed to involve every member of the club in obtaining small pledges – even as little as 25 cents per hole played – from their non-Rotarian friends and neighbors and at the same time telling those friends and neighbors about what Rotarians around the world have done to help eradicate polio.

So, how does your club raise $1,000 with Just One Golfer?

- Let’s assume your club has 30 members.
- Just one golfer in the club commits to play just 18 holes on a day of his or her choice in September.
- All 30 members of the club pledge $1 per hole played.
  - 30 member pledges of $1 X 18 holes = $540.
  - Each member finds one friend to pledge $1/hole = $540.
  - Total = $1080.

OR

- 30 member pledges of $1 X 18 holes = $540.
- Each member finds 4 friends to pledge 25cents/hole = $540.
- Total = $1080.

Of course, the more pledges you obtain from your non-Rotarian friends and neighbors, the more money you raise!

Jerry Venters, Golf Marathon Chair
jvrotary6040@yahoo.com
816-665-9272
Golf Marathon Tips for Golfers:

- Don’t keep score!
- Play “ready golf”
- Don’t take practice swings
- Don’t lose any balls
- Don’t look for lost balls
- Play 2 balls on par 3 holes
- Repeat: Don’t keep score!
- Don’t line up putts, and putt quickly
- Repeat: Play “ready golf”
- Play 2 balls on par 4s when possible
- Play 3 balls on shorter par 3 holes when possible
- Did I mention: Play “ready golf”?  
- Oh, yes, and did I mention: DON’T KEEP SCORE!!
- Play fast!! Have fun!! Raise lots of money!!

Suggestions for obtaining pledges:

When asking for pledges, give potential donors a polio “fact sheet” (available from your club president or Golf Champion and on the District Web site)

Tell your friends and neighbors we’re “This Close” to eradicating polio (check out the “This Close” promos on the RI Web site)

Ask for $1/hole pledges, and “bargain down” from there

Advise donors they can make pledge payment checks to “The Rotary Foundation” if they wish to claim a tax deduction

If your club has no golfers, ask donors to support a golfer in another Rotary club