US$4 billion pledged toward endgame strategy

From the Global Vaccine Summit in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Carol Pandak, Rotary’s PolioPlus Director, announced on April 25 that global leaders and individual philanthropists have pledged US$4 billion over six years to fund a comprehensive Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan presented at the Summit.

The 2-day event was emceed by Rotary polio ambassador, actress Archie Panjabi. In addition to Pandak, Rotary was represented by Intl’l Polio Plus Chair Bob Scott and India National PolioPlus Chair Deepak Kapur.

The commitments of 3/4 of the projected cost of $5.5 billion by leaders of nations, foundations and individual philanthropists signaled their confidence in the plan.

Carol notes that $355 million of that amount is pledged by new foundations who are adding their support. The Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi also announced a second pledge of $120 million, adding to his first contribution made in 2011.

Earlier this month, more that 400 scientists and global health experts from around the world endorsed the plan developed by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), reaffirming the conviction that a polio-free world can be achieved by 2018.

Margaret Chan, World Health Organization Director-General said, “After millennia battling polio, this plan puts us with sight of the endgame. We have new knowledge about the polioviruses, new technologies and new tactics to reach the most vulnerable communities. The extensive experience, infrastructure and knowledge gained from ending polio can help us reach all children and all communities with essential health services.”

In his remarks at the Summit, Bill Gates underscored the numerous benefits of ending polio and called on additional donors to come forward with long-term commitments to fully fund the GPEI plan. This has been an historic month in our battle to end polio!

So what is this endgame strategy?

The Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018 was developed by GPEI in extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. It incorporates the lessons learned from India’s success becoming polio-free in early 2012 and cutting-edge knowledge about the risk of circulating vaccine-derived polioviruses. This plan also complements the Emergency Action Plans implemented last year in the remaining polio-endemic countries — Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Bill Gates, who announced that his foundation would commit $1.8 billion of the plan’s cost, explained, “This...isn’t just a polio eradication plan, it’s a global immunization plan with the goal of ending polio while improving efforts to protect all children, including the most vulnerable, with life-saving vaccines. Successful implementation of the plan requires a significant but time-limited investment that will deliver a polio-free world and pay dividends for future generations.”

The plan’s budget includes the costs of reaching and vaccinating more that 250 million children multiple times every year, monitoring and surveillance in more than 70 countries, and securing the infrastructure that can benefit other health and development programs. It also includes the introduction of inactivated polio vaccine and phasing out of the component of oral polio vaccine, to protect against the spread of both wild and vaccine strains of poliovirus.
Goodyear blimp helps spread “End Polio Now” message

The iconic Goodyear airship Spirit of America, often referred to as “the blimp,” has carried messages regarding Rotary International’s efforts to End Polio Now for the past four years. When millions of people in the Los Angeles basin look up and see “the blimp” passing overhead, they also see a message in support of our polio eradication campaign.

The Goodyear corporate management has been extremely supportive of Rotary and our efforts to End Polio Now. The scrolling message, “Goodyear Proudly Supports Rotary International End Polio Now,” is displayed in lights on the side of the airship that can be seen both in the daytime and at night. That message is displayed not only each year on Rotary’s anniversary in February, but every time the airship goes up. While there are other messages displayed as well on a rotational basis, Rotary’s message is the only permanent one that has been, and will continue to be, displayed – with no plans to remove it.

Each of these past four years District 5280 has celebrated Rotary’s anniversary by having PDG Rick Mendoza photograph the District Governor and other district leaders at the airship operations in Carson, CA.

The right fit
by Helene Kalfuss, Ph.D., Zone 26 TRF Development Specialist

The little boy in the picture is wearing an LN-4 artificial hand. As you can see, he is a double amputee as the result of his upper extremities being totally burnt by a kerosene cooking fire and his second artificial hand will be fitted a few months following the one in situ. This is a particular problem in countries like Peru where kerosene is used for cooking fires. There are thousands just like him.

The LN-4 is not a “Rotary project” but it is available to be given for free to those in need of it and has proved to be the right fit for thousands of youngsters and adults as well. Does it really matter if it is a “Rotary project”? As contributors to TRF it only matters that it is suitable for the amputees, and that it is affordable, so that as many amputees can get one as needed. When we buy equipment for those needing it through our grant programs, we don’t demand that it be from a “Rotary project” producer. We buy all kinds of medical devices from any producer that gives us the right fit. And just what is the right fit? Obviously price is a consideration, but so is durability, sustainability, maintenance and parts availability, defect replacement guarantees, patient acceptance and device use education, anticipated longevity of the unit, just to mention a few right fit measures.

Your TRF contributions are so valuable that not a penny is wasted. That’s why medical devices are usually purchased in the host’s locale, allowing for all of the considerations mentioned above. We have learned the hard way that if we send new or even used equipment purchased in the U.S., parts are not immediately available for replacement, electrical currents are different causing many problems with usage and there are a myriad of compatibility issues that cannot be locally solved. It is more common that costs will be lower in the host country as well, so that we can buy more for your contributed dollar.

Understanding how careful we are with your TRF contributions, it quickly becomes clear that giving to TRF is the right fit for every Rotarian. That is why it is the Charity of Choice for each and every member of a Rotary club. The oversight that TRF practices insures that your dollars are monitored very carefully. The Rotary Foundation Cadre of Technical Advisors is an important part of that oversight, as they are often called into service to physically inspect project sites, perform audits over the financial transactions and report back directly to the Board of Trustees of TRF. The Cadre members also may be required to investigate the bids of suppliers of materials and/or equipment for the grants being inspected, so that Rotarians or their family members are not financially benefitting. That Rotarians or their families are not benefitting from the grant is the most important issue in terms of suppliers/vendors – whether a Rotary project is or is not supplying the equipment. So, yes, you can decide that the LN-4 artificial hand is the right fit for your project and by contributing to TRF you can be assured that you will have the DDF to do your project.

Rotarians giving to TRF equals TRF (The Right Fit!): R+TRF=TRF an equation that works! (Contact Helene at drhkalfuss@dc.rr.com)

Polio Eradication
Wild Polio Virus Cases Update

Total WPV cases 2013
Globally 22
In endemic countries 22
In non-endemic countries 0

Total WPV cases 2012
Globally 222
In endemic countries 216
In non-endemic countries 6

Total WPV cases 2011
Globally 650
In endemic countries 341
In non-endemic countries 309

Total WPV cases 2010
Globally 1,352
In endemic countries 232
In non-endemic countries 1,120

As of April 24, here is how the wild polio virus cases have been distributed so far this year:
Nigeria .................... 14
Pakistan .................... 6
Afghanistan ................ 2
http://www.endpolio.org
I believe a vital element of leading volunteers is to celebrate successes when they are achieved. People need to know and be assured that their efforts and donations are not wasted, but are accomplishing the good they have intended.

As district leaders, I encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity to “beat the drums and blow the trumpets” to celebrate our success this month in gaining enormous support for the endgame strategy developed by the Global Polio Initiative (GPEI).

It has been a very long road since Rotary launched our worldwide war on polio in 1985, and it is understandable that some Rotarians have become weary in the ensuing years as the elusive three types of wild poliovirus have been difficult to eliminate in some parts of the world. At times it has seemed to some that we were standing alone, and to others that we were never given enough credit.

But although others have doubted, Rotarians have doggedly continued to believe total eradication of polio is possible, and to lead with our influential voice and our dollars the relentless battle against the crippling and often fatal disease.

Now, it seems, the scientific leaders of the world have agreed, and the governments & philanthropic foundations are pledging their support toward the estimated $5.5 billion it will take to finish the task.

We Rotarians realized from the beginning that we could not do it alone. While we had little idea in 1985 what the total cost would be to eliminate this disease, we have always understood it would take the help of our international partners, the World Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and UNICEF, along with the governments of the world and as many of the philanthropic foundations as we could get to join us.

Rotary, though, has done what Rotary does best — captured in Past RI President Bill Boyd’s theme: “Lead the Way.” It has been our vision and our leadership by example that has paved the way and maintained the focus on our goal.

We have justifiable cause to celebrate this month! Don’t miss this opportunity to carry the message to those Rotarians in our clubs — and help them see what their determination and contributions have accomplished. Help them find renewed zeal and strength to finish the course.

As of March 31, contributions toward our Annual Programs Fund Contributions Goal of $120 million reached $73,633,503

Districts 5170, 5220, 5280 & 5340 have reached or exceeded their goal for this year. Congratulations!

As of February 28, another $16,318,217 has been added so far this year to our Endowment Fund.

Our goal: $1 billion by 2025.

So far this Rotary year our Rotarians worldwide have given $19,349,896 for polio eradication.

Our Rotarian contributions are encouraging & inspiring others to join us in our battle put an end to this crippling disease.

D5170 leads, with D5000 and D5500 in 2nd and 3rd. D5240 achieved a 12.5% increase!
Major gains made in eliminating type 3 wild poliovirus

It has now been 12 months since Asia has reported its last case of polio due to the wild poliovirus WPV3. That last case occurred April 18, 2012 in Pakistan.

It is significant to note that over the past six months, only one case involving WPV3 has been reported worldwide, and that was in Yobe, Nigeria, on Nov. 10, 2012. These are the lowest ever recorded levels of WPV3 transmission, and there is reason to believe this strain is on the verge of eradication.

If so, it would be the second wild poliovirus strain to be eradicated, following type 2 (WPV2) in 1999 — leaving only wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1). Chris Maher, WHO’s Senior Scientist for Polio Eradication says, “I don’t think it’s gone, but it’s definitely at its lowest ever levels; and if we keep up the pressure, it’s on its way out.” The last known WPV3 reservoirs are in northern Nigeria in areas that are insecure and difficult to access due to the ethnic warfare that continues to rage in that region. Therefore, it is hard to tell if this strain is still being circulated, but is going undetected.

Endowments 101
by Mike Dunlap, Zone 26 Major Gifts Officer,

Endowments are designed to keep the principal amount intact while using the investment income from dividends for charitable efforts...a sound investment in a better future...celebrating the lives of generous donors...forever linking their names...to doing good in the world.

The Endowment Fund of The Rotary Foundation is an amalgamation of dreams intended to live forever, spinning off bits of goodness, making a difference in countless lives, enabling donors to contribute to a future they hope will be better than the time that came before, building peace, healing, educating, nourishing and developing communities.

What price “perpetuity?” Endowment gifts can range from $25,000 to millions and can be designated to support the World Fund, Share, Rotary Peace Centers and any of the six Areas of Focus.

Each endowment bears the name of the donor or honoree and is represented by a written gift agreement specifying how distributions are to be spent — a contract that outlives the donor, binding the Rotary Foundation to honor another dream.

What is your dream, and what could be the significant legacy you might be able to leave, with the help of The Rotary Foundation? For additional information contact:

Karena Bierman, J.D.
Manager of Planned Giving
karena.bierman@rotary.org
(847) 866-4458

or

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Polio vaccine developer Koprowski dies

Dr. Hilary Koprowski, the pioneering virologist who developed the first successful oral vaccination for polio, died April 11 at his home in Philadelphia. He was 96. Although not as well known as his fellow researchers, Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, Koprowski in 1950 became the first to show that it was possible to vaccinate against polio. He self-administered the live-virus oral vaccine he developed before the 1950 clinical trial. He became the director of The Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, where he served from 1957 to 1991, developing a rubella vaccine that helped eradicate the disease in much of the world.

Potential donors will be impressed, and existing donors reassured, by fact that our Rotary Foundation has earned a grade of A+ from the American Institute of Philanthropy, a top rating of four stars from Charity Navigator and full accreditation from the Wise Giving Alliance of the Better Business Bureau. In fiscal 2012 our Foundation directed 90% of its spending to programs — far exceeding the benchmark of 65% that independent charity-rating services view as a measure of high efficiency.

Matching funds still available for DDF for polio

Districts can still double your contribution of your District Designated Funds to PolioPlus by obtaining a match from the Foundation’s World Fund — if your DDF is donated by June 30, 2013.

We encourage District Foundation Chairs and their committees to evaluate the DDF your districts have available, and to seriously consider contributing part of that to help us fund this final stretch in our polio eradication efforts. At latest report, there is still $7 million available that has been set aside in the World Fund to match your DDF.

Reminder: Packaged Grants Webinar on 4-30 and 5-2

Join a special TRF Packaged Grants webinar on April 30, at 8:00 a.m. CDT, or May 2 at 12:00 p.m. to learn more about this special type of grant and how to apply for this grant type. Hear more about our current four strategic partners and from Rotarians who will share their successful experiences working with Packaged Grants, which are fully-funded by TRF and partners.

The one hour webinar is open to all Rotarians. There will be time at the conclusion of the webinar for questions and answers by experienced Rotarians and Foundation staff.