



ROTARY

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ROTARY'S HEALTH PROJECTS

With its vast international grassroots network, Rotary initiates global and community-based projects to address a wide range of health risks that threaten the well-being of those without access to adequate health care. Rotary's flagship public health project, PolioPlus, aims to immunize children against the poliovirus and eradicate polio from the world.

- Since its launch in 1988, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative - spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and UNICEF - has reduced the incidence of polio by more than 99 percent. At the time, more than 125 countries were polio-endemic, and more than 350,000 children were paralyzed by the disease each year.
- In 2002, Rotary received the William and Melinda Gates Foundation Award for Global Health for its major and lasting efforts to improve public health worldwide.
- Rotary has contributed more than US\$620 million and countless hours of volunteer work to help immunize an estimated two billion children throughout the world. This commitment to end polio represents the largest private-sector support of a global health initiative to date.

Below are some examples of other Rotary health projects:

- In Gumaco, Quezon, Philippines, a Rotary project provided free tuberculosis screening and treatment to pre-school and elementary school children.
- In Kerela and Tamil Nadu, India, Rotary clubs launched a wide-scale AIDS education campaign using bicycle and van teams to coordinate community outreach.
- The Gift of Life project, initiated by Rotary clubs around the world, offers free heart surgeries to children who have potentially fatal heart conditions. To date, more than 2,000 children have received lifesaving surgery.
- Working with other nongovernmental organizations, Rotary clubs in Africa are implementing community-led responses to help AIDS orphans and vulnerable children in Cote d'Ivoire, Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia. In addition to training more than 40,000 caregivers, the project aims to provide psychosocial support for more than 146,000 orphans in the next five years.
- In Bolivia, Rotary clubs prevent the spread of an infectious parasitic disease called chagas, which affects millions of people, through education initiatives and the building of new shelters.