

World Rotary Day

WHEREAS, Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905, in Chicago, Illinois USA, is the world's first and one of the largest non-profit humanitarian service organizations; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1.2 million Rotary club members comprised of professional and business leaders in over 34,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary motto "Service Above Self" inspires members to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, Rotary funds club projects and sponsors volunteers with community expertise to provide medical supplies, health care, clean water, food production, job training, and education to millions in need, particularly in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and spearheaded efforts with the World Health Organization, U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed more than \$1 billion and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children against polio in 122 countries; and

WHEREAS, Since 2012, Rotary raised \$228 million in new money for polio eradication in response to a \$355 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which promptly contributed an additional \$50 million in recognition of Rotary's commitment; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are providing much needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute \$8 billion to the polio eradication effort; and

WHEREAS, Rotary Peace Fellowships fund either master's degree or professional development certificate study at one of the six [Rotary Peace Centers](#).

WHEREAS, Rotary supports programs that strengthen the capacity of communities to provide basic education and literacy to all.

WHEREAS, there are [number of districts] Rotary Districts in [state, province or region] with nearly [number] Rotary clubs within those Districts, representing [number] of Rotarians in these clubs actively sponsoring service projects that address such critical issues as poverty, health, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities, throughout the [state, province or region] of [name] and abroad.

*Therefore, I, _____, do hereby proclaim **Thursday, February 23, 2013** as World Rotary Day, and encourage all citizens to join me in recognizing Rotary International for its 108 years of service to improving the human condition in local communities around the world, and recognize as well the Rotary Clubs of the [state. province or region] of [name].*

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