

Subj: **ROTARY - Jefferson City Breakfast**  
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Dear Rotarian Dudley,

As many of you will recall, November is Rotary Foundation month. The Rotary Foundation is truly one of the greatest forces for good in the entire world. Tomorrow, we will hear from our club's Foundation chair, [George Kastler](#) with the able assistance of past chairman, [Reg Turnbull](#). They will share with us the ins and outs of the Foundation, the many causes that it supports and of course, the various ways that we can support the work of the Foundation. One important goal of the Foundation is the eradication of Polio from the face of the Earth. Cathy Libey, Secretary of the [Jefferson City Evening Rotary Club](#), included the following information in her recent email to their members. I trust that she won't mind if, by way of cut-and-paste, I include the following message for the benefit of our members:

**Polio is:**

- A crippling and potentially fatal infectious disease, polio (poliomyelitis) still strikes children mainly under the age of five in countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.
- Polio can cause paralysis and sometimes death. Because there is no cure for polio, the best protection is prevention. For as little as US\$0.60 worth of vaccine, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life.
- It can cause paralysis within hours, and polio paralysis is almost always irreversible.
- In the most severe cases, polio attacks the motor neurons of the brain stem, causing breathing difficulty or even death.
- Historically, polio has been the world's greatest cause of disability.

If polio isn't eradicated, the world will continue to live under the threat of the disease. More than 10 million children will be paralyzed in the next 40 years if the world fails to capitalize on its US\$5 billion global investment in eradication

**PolioPlus:**

Since PolioPlus began in 1985, Rotary's vast network of 1.2 million members has contributed money, volunteer time, and networking expertise to the polio eradication effort.

- Rotary's financial contributions to the global polio eradication effort will reach nearly US\$1.2 billion by the time the world is certified polio-free.
- The PolioPlus program helps Rotary fund operational costs, such as transportation, vaccine delivery, social mobilization, and training of health workers, and support surveillance activities.
- Rotarians work to encourage both donor and polio-affected governments to commit the political and financial resources needed to eradicate polio.

**Polio Facts & Figures**

Area	Number of cases in 2009
Afghanistan	11
India	107
Nigeria	333
Pakistan	21
Non-endemic countries	170

Total worldwide
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642
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Additionally, as Dr. [Dave Linsenhardt](#) recently informed us, Rotary also benefits from outside grants, including recent contributions totaling \$355 million from [The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#). Foundation Co-chair Bill Gates announced the latest grant during his [speech at the Rotary leadership conference](#) in January 2009. Rotary in turn pledged to raise \$200 million in matching funds within three years.

[Lance Stegeman](#) will lead our prayer and humor will be attempted by [Stan Hutson](#). Has Bertrand helped him out? We shall see.

We may even have a new member induction tomorrow if all goes well. Until then, remember: **The Future of Rotary is In Your Hands**. For all you do, this club's for you.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
Joe

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