

小兒麻痺歷史倒數計時



「小兒麻痺歷史倒數計時」是我特別喜歡的一句。這個字不僅表達了扶輪的小兒麻痺艱鉅工作多麼重大的意義——類似的目標人類經歷過程只有達成過一次——也表達了終點線近在咫尺。

扶輪及我們的策略夥伴團結起來，作為根除小兒麻痺的後盾。我們的 2016 年立法會議投票表決，重申以根除小兒麻痺作為「最高目標」。最近在日內瓦舉行的第 70 屆世界衛生大會，全球衛生領導人們重申他們對於根除小兒麻痺的承諾。到處都可以看到有關我們的努力的新聞報導。各項計畫繼續在全世界進行——例如 6930 地區每年一度的「世界大餐」——把焦點放在扶輪社員們的主要責任：募款、推動、及義工招募。

請想一想：下一個小兒麻痺病例可能是最後一個病例。但是我們必須小心，因為「最後一個病例」不是我們的工作的結束。事實上，那時我們的工作甚至會更難。世界衛生組織要求至少三年零個案例報告，才會認證世界沒有小兒麻痺。

在那個期間，密集的疫苗接種及觀察作業必須持續進行。在疫苗接種這方面，兒童們將繼續接受小兒麻痺疫苗。在監測這方面，緊盯是否有再起的跡象至關重要。隨著有症狀的病例及病人的數量的減少，監測成本越來越高。

這就是為什麼扶輪已把它對於對抗小兒麻痺的承諾增加到每年 5,000 萬美元，以及比爾及梅琳達蓋茲基金會將 2:1 的配合捐獻（扶輪每捐獻 2 美元，該基金會將捐獻 1 美元）再延長 3 年。為了達成這目標，我們比以前任何時候都更需要您的幫忙。如果扶輪社員們每年都達成募款目標，總數將為 4 億 5,000 萬美元。在亞特蘭大年會，全世界各國及主要捐獻人承諾超過十億美元，包括扶輪每年的 5,000 萬美元，來加強全球的奮鬥，以結束此一麻痺疾病。現在我們都有一個重要任務：實現那些承諾。

這一切就是為什麼我要請您多少對小兒麻痺運動貢獻一些——無論是直接捐獻、在您的社區的募款、還是利用今天多樣的媒體平台來敘述小兒麻痺的故事。此外，請公開倡導，藉由寫信給貴國政府官員，以確保他們履行保證並堅守承諾，以及去接觸企業領導人，請他們持續支持根除小兒麻痺。請寫信到 Paul.Netzel@rotary.org 給我，來分享您所作所為，或您對於如何使小兒麻痺繼續列為最優先工作的想法。在我們的「歷史倒數計時」，我們比以前更需要您。

Paul A. Netzel 尼采爾
基金會保管委員會主委

在今年的世界小兒麻痺日，您可藉由舉辦影片欣賞、音樂會、或小兒麻痺遊行或騎車。詳情請看
endpolio.org/world-polio-day.

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION CHAIR

Countdown to history



“Countdown to history” is a phrase I especially like. Those three words express not just how momentous Rotary's polio endeavor is – something achieved only once before in the human experience – but also that the finish line is within sight.

Rotary and our strategic partners are united behind eradicating polio. Our 2016 Council on Legislation voted to reaffirm polio eradication as a goal “of the highest order.” At the recent 70th World Health Assembly in Geneva, global health leaders reiterated their commitment to polio eradication. News coverage of our efforts pops up everywhere. Projects continue worldwide – such as District 6930's annual World's Greatest Meal – that focus on Rotarians' primary responsibilities of fundraising, advocacy, and volunteer recruitment.

Just think: The next case of polio could be the last case. But we must be careful, because that “last case” will not be the end of our task. In fact, that's when the job gets even harder. The World Health Organization will require at least three years with zero cases reported before certifying the world polio free.

During that time, intensive vaccination and observation operations will need to continue. On the vaccination side, children will continue to receive the polio vaccine. On the surveillance side, watching for signs of resurgence is vitally important. As the number of cases and patients with visible symptoms drops, this observation grows increasingly more expensive.

This is why Rotary has increased its commitment to fighting polio to 50 million per year and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has extended its 2-for-1 match of Rotary donations for another three years. To achieve this goal, we need you more than ever. If Rotarians hit the fundraising goal each year, the total will be \$450 million. At the convention in Atlanta, nations from around the world and key donors pledged more than \$1 billion to energize the global fight to end this paralyzing disease, including Rotary's \$50 million per year. Now we all have the important job of making good on those pledges.

All of this is why I ask you to contribute something to the polio campaign – whether it is a direct donation, fundraising in your community, or telling the polio story using the multiple platforms of today's media. Also, be an advocate by writing your government officials to ensure that they fulfill their pledges and maintain commitment, and reaching out to corporate leaders asking for their continued support of polio eradication. Write to me at Paul.Netzel@rotary.org to share what you are doing or your ideas for keeping polio at the top of our agenda. We need you as never before in our “countdown to history.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul A. Netzel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul A. Netzel

FOUNDATION TRUSTEE CHAIR

This World Polio Day, get involved by hosting a viewing party, concert, or polio walk or ride. Find out more at endpolio.org/world-polio-day.