

親愛的扶輪社友，

幾年前在澳大利亞墨爾本博物館，我的女兒過去工作的地方，展示一具人工呼吸器。大多數與我同齡的人都應該記得 1950 年代恐怖的小兒麻痺疫情，對於我們這些人而言，那具人工呼吸器證明疫苗接種已使我們遠離那種恐怖有多遠：遠到曾經是生死攸關的醫療設備實際上已成博物館收藏品。

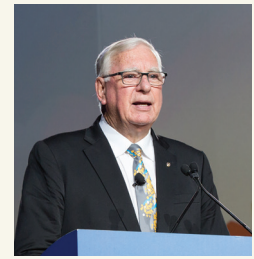
對於世界的錯綜複雜，小兒麻痺的故事情節屬於簡單的一項：歷經多年的恐懼之後，疫苗發展出來，疾病被征服了。但是對於世界的某些事情，故事却是不同的。在許多國家，疫苗無法取得，大規模疫苗接種太昂貴，或者根本無法接觸到兒童。雖然世界其他地方都把小兒麻痺閒置於博物館，在這些國家，小兒麻痺繼續肆虐——直到扶輪站出來說，所有兒童，無論他們住哪裡或他們的環境為何，都應該活在無小兒麻痺的威脅之下。

自從根除小兒麻痺等疾病計畫啟動以來這幾十年，由於扶輪、世界各國政府、及「倡導全球根除小兒麻痺機構」的共同努力，已使小兒麻痺病例的數字，從估計每年 350,000 件，降到目前 2017 年只有幾件。但是我們必須到達零病例，並且保持這個紀錄，方能達成根除小兒麻痺。為了達成這個目標，我們需要每個人的幫助。

在 10 月 24 日，我們將紀念世界小兒麻痺日。這一天我們將慶祝我們走了多遠，這一天也是我們所有人促進理解小兒麻痺及募款來完成根除任務的機會。我請每個扶輪社以某方式參與世界小兒麻痺日活動，而且我鼓勵您到 endpolio.org 去參考別人的構想及參與您的活動。無論您主辦一場無聲拍賣會、一場虛擬實境影片觀賞會、一個募款遊行、或參加一個 Purple Pinkie Day(根除小兒麻痺募款與提高認知日)，貴社都能實現真正的改變。

今年，我們的世界小兒麻痺日直播活動將在西雅圖比爾及梅琳達蓋茲基金會總部舉行；您可以從太平洋時間下午 2:30 起在 endpolio.org 觀看。如您們眾人所知，扶輪已承諾未來三年每年勸募 5,000 萬美元。這個數額將按 2 比 1 比例獲得蓋茲基金會的配合款——把扶輪在世界小兒麻痺日及全年所勸募到的錢增為三倍。讓我們都在世界小兒麻痺日做些改變——並協助「終結小兒麻痺」。

Ian H.S. Riseley 萊斯禮
國際扶輪社長



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DEAR FELLOW ROTARIANS,

Some years ago in the Melbourne, Australia, museum where my daughter used to work, an iron lung was on display. For most people my age who remembered the terrifying polio epidemics of the 1950s, that iron lung was a testament to how far vaccination had brought us: to the point where that once-critical piece of medical equipment had literally become a museum piece.

For much of the world, the story of polio is a simple one: After years of fear, a vaccine was developed and a disease was conquered. But for some of the world, the story was different. In so many countries, the vaccine wasn't available, mass vaccination was too expensive, or children simply couldn't be reached. While the rest of the world relegated polio to its museums, in these countries, the disease continued to rage – until Rotary stepped forward and said that all children, no matter where they lived or what their circumstances, deserved to live free of polio.

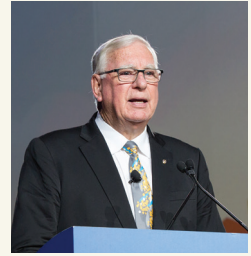
In the years since PolioPlus was launched, the combined efforts of Rotary, the governments of the world, and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative have brought the number of cases of polio down from an estimated 350,000 per year to just a few so far in 2017. But we must reach zero cases, and stay there, to achieve eradication. To do that, we need everyone's help.

On 24 October, we will mark World Polio Day. It is a day to celebrate how far we have come and an opportunity for all of us to raise awareness and funds to complete the work of eradication. I ask every Rotary club to participate in some way in World Polio Day activities, and I encourage you to visit endpolio.org for ideas and to register your event. Whether you host a silent auction, a virtual reality viewing, a fundraising walk, or a Purple Pinkie Day, your club can make a real difference.

This year, our World Polio Day livestream event will take place at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation headquarters in Seattle; you can watch it on endpolio.org beginning at 2:30 p.m. Pacific time. As many of you know, Rotary has committed to raising \$50 million a year for the next three years. This amount will be matched 2-to-1 by the Gates Foundation – effectively tripling the value of all money Rotary raises on World Polio Day and throughout the year. Let's all make a difference on World Polio Day – and help End Polio Now.



IAN H.S. RISELEY
President, Rotary International



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