

Rotary Foundation Announcement March 4, 2021

It's been a while since you've received an update on the Rotary Foundation, which includes Polio Plus and the Annual Fund. A few things:

- First, a quick reminder that when you make a donation to either Polio Plus or the Annual Fund, you earn 1 point towards your Paul Harris for every \$1 you donated. In addition, you receive 1 transferrable point that does not count towards your own PH, but once you transfer it to someone else, it will count towards their PH. When you reach your first 1,000 PH points, you become a PH Fellow and will be presented a certificate of recognition and commemorative pin. After that, for every additional 1,000 points you earn, you will become a Multiple PH Fellow and receive a new commemorative pin with extra sapphires or rubies. It is also important to note that every \$1 you donate to Polio Plus is matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

- So where does all that money go? The Rotary Foundation supports 7 core causes throughout the world including:
 - Promoting peace
 - Providing clean water
 - Saving mothers and children
 - Supporting education
 - Growing local economies
 - Fighting disease
 - Protecting the environment

- With that out of the way, I want to remind the club that fellow Sunrise Rotarian David Carroll generously donated \$50k to the Rotary Foundation in December, which catapulted our club into the #2 spot out of 47 total clubs in District 5130. Only the Sebastopol Sunrise club has given more this year with a total of \$64k but they don't count because they're a bunch of attention seeking try hards with deep pockets, so I think we can all agree Napa Sunrise is #1 in the District! It couldn't have happened under the watch of a better President, so cheers to Hugh!

- Lastly, I also want to give an update on Polio Plus efforts:
 - There are currently only 2 confirmed cases of wild poliovirus in the world compared to 17 at this time last year, so progress is being made. Pakistan had actually been clear of polio cases for a few months, but they just saw their first case of wild poliovirus on Jan 27. Afghanistan has the other case.
 - The Global Polio Eradication Initiative calls on countries and donors to remain vigilant against all forms of polio. Until every strain is eradicated worldwide, the incredible progress made against polio globally will be at risk.
 - Remember, Africa was declared free of wild polio virus in August 2020 which is a significant milestone for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.
 - However, the work in Africa to eliminate polio isn't over. The following is straight from the World Health Organization's website:
 - "While this is a remarkable milestone, we must not become complacent. Continued commitment to strengthening immunization and health systems in the African region is essential to protect progress against wild polio and to tackle the spread of type 2 circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV2), which is present in 16 countries in the region. Pockets of low immunity mean such strains continue to pose a threat and the risk is magnified by interruptions in vaccination due to COVID-19, which have left communities more vulnerable to vaccine-derived poliovirus outbreaks."

That's all I've got for you. Now back to your regularly scheduled programming.