



LEADERSHIP



#### December is Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

#### District 6690 Governor, Steve Heiser

December is Disease Prevention and Treatment month for Rotary. Because of our commitment to eradicate polio, more Rotarians' money has been

donated to this Area of Focus than any other. For those donations and with the tremendous help of our Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners, we are "this close" to eradicating polio.

And now, another infectious disease has struck and the world must focus on vaccinating everyone against COVID-19. Because of our efforts to eradicate polio, regional infectious disease centers have been created around the world to distribute vaccine and coordinate vaccinations. I am sure they will be used to help with the COVID-19 vaccinations.

As Rotarians, our money has truly served the world beyond eradicating polio, hence the name PolioPlus. There are many other diseases that we must prevent and treat, and we should not limit ourselves to only focusing on polio, but please feel good about what you and your fellow Rotarians have done to help the world in many areas, not just eradicating polio.

Have a wonderful Holiday Season, and I wish you all the best in 2021.

# 2020: A Year of Great Change and Strength

**RI President, Holger Knaack** 

As I look back on 2020, I reflect on how our lives have changed. The global COVID-19 pandemic



brought pain and loss to many of us. And for almost all of us, our daily lives, family time, and work also changed this year. But we've made it to the end of this difficult year, not on our own but by reaching out to one another, as we always do in Rotary. With each passing year, I become prouder of our organization.

I will choose to remember 2020 as a year of great

change and strength for us; Rotary didn't stop, despite the pandemic. We removed obstacles, found new ways to connect, and embraced new approaches to service, such as online projects and virtual fundraising. I have invited two Rotarians to share their stories about how Rotary grew stronger this year.

#### <u>Read More</u>from

*Liza Larson, Rotary E-Club Engage and Rotary Club of Plano East, Texas and Blessing Michael, Rotary Club of Port Harcourt North, Nigeria* 

# **POLIO PLUS**

#### **Project Update: Polio Plus**



WPV Cases, YTD 2020:

- · Afghanistan 56
- Pakistan 81

# In the face of a pandemic, the important work of fighting polio must continue

Rotary and its partners have mobilized disease-fighting infrastructure to respond to COVID-19 —while remaining dedicated to eradicating polio.

#### endpolio.org story by: Hank Sartin, Nov. 30, 2020

*"While response to the COVID-19 pandemic is an urgent global health priority, we cannot let our progress against polio backslide," says Michael K. McGovern, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee and a member of the <u>Global Polio Eradication Initiative</u> (GPEI) Polio Oversight Board.* 

"In March, the GPEI helped mount a worldwide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, tapping the infrastructure created for polio vaccination and

surveillance. All the while, it dedicated funds and other resources to resuming polio vaccination efforts as soon as it was safe to do so, and to adjusting the vaccination and surveillance infrastructure as needed.

"When COVID-19 emerged, the GPEI brought decades of experience to the response. While critical functions of the polio eradication effort continued, polio workers became involved in contact tracing, testing, and educating communities about hand washing and other ways to reduce transmission of and exposure to COVID-19. In many cases, they carried out both polio eradication and COVID-19 response activities simultaneously.

#### Read the Full Story

### Development

#### Master Class - Generating Revenue/Fundraising

In case you missed it ... The November Master Class on Fundraising was a big hit! You can watch the replay here:

WATCH the Video (in 3 parts)



## Service

#### Fairland West students appreciate donation from Rotary Club of Ironton

(Story reprinted from the <u>Ironton</u> <u>Tribune</u>)

Students at Fairland West Elementary were thankful for a gift they received from the Rotary Club of Ironton.



This month, the group donated boxes of dictionaries and thesauruses to all students in the school's third and fifth grade class.

The school's assistant principal, Sandy Joseph, said Jeff Clark, a Rotary member, arrived at the school to deliver the gifts, which the organization does for schools across the county each year. The Rotary Club has many service projects, but she said Clark told them the dictionary project is one of their favorites.

Joseph said the COVID-19 pandemic has prevented the Rotary members from presenting the dictionaries in person to the students this

year. However, the teachers made the presentations on their behalf and read a letter from the Rotary Club to the class.

Joseph said the gifts are put to good use and serve as the basis for writing projects for the students.



#### **Rotary Club of Westerville**

Several Westerville Rotarians pulled together for a Service Project for the Bed Brigade in Grove City, building beds for needy families.

#### Whitehall-Bexley Rotary Club

Whitehall-Bexley Rotary Club was part of the community team that helped bring drive-through COVID testing to the community.



### **Donations to Communities in Need**

Many Rotary clubs have been collecting and donating to help their community members in need. (Wow, Rotarians do a lot!) Here are a few from last month:



Columbus Rotary



Lancaster Rotary and Rotary Club of



Newark Rotary Club

Newark Rotary stepped up to help the

..Donated to the Windsor Stem Academy Food Pantry Drive.

#### Lancaster-Sherman

The two <u>clubs</u> <u>worked together</u> to create two drop-off points for food donations! Look Up Center with their Thanksgiving Dinner distribution.



Olentangy Rotary





Upper Arlington Rotary Club

Upper Arlington Rotary Club members and UAHS Interact Club members were together ringing bells and collecting donations for the <u>The</u> <u>Salvation Army USA</u>.



#### Bethesda-Belmont-Morristown Rotary Club

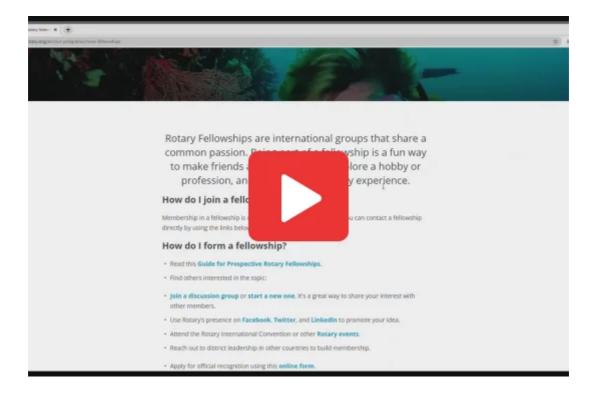
The Bethesda-Belmont-Morristown Rotary Club is sponsoring a new hoodie collection for Union Local High School students and Middle School students.

## Get (more) Involved with Rotary!

#### **Rotary Fellowships and Action Groups**

**Rotary Fellowships** are international groups that share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. (learn more and find a fellowship to join.)

**Rotary Action Groups** can help clubs and districts plan and carry out service projects. Each group has a specific area of expertise. They are autonomous, international groups organized by professionals from a specific sector. <u>View a list of Rotary Action Groups</u> and contact them directly to find out how you can join or partner on a project. District 6690 Training has put together the following short video explaining Fellowships and Action Groups. (Thanks to Brandy, Deichert for pulling this together!)



# **EVENTS**

# 2021 Rotary International Convention



**Book Your Room Today!** 

#### **Newsletter Contributions**

Tell the rest of the district what your club or committee is up to! Where do you need help? What successes can you share? What do you want to know more about? Send submission ideas to <u>dave.ungar@gmail.com</u> by the 25th of the month. (Newsletter publication is the first of each month.)

#### **Social Media**

Does your club use hashtags when posting on social media? Using **#RD6690** on your posts will enable the district to search and repost/retweet your messages. Let us help you reach a larger audience!

