

As I travel North Alabama and visit with the Rotary Clubs in our District, I am constantly impressed by the level of service and impact our Rotarians are making in their community and in our world. This month I am proud to announce and provide details on just a few of these great initiatives, and I hope you will join with these Clubs in their efforts as together we are able to expand the Magic of Rotary to new levels. In future months, if your Club has an initiative you would like me to incorporate at the District level to help increase impact, please contact me and I will be glad to announce it in this and other forums.

### **Operations Wipe Out: Building a Path to the Elimination of Cervical Cancer as Public Health Problem in Alabama with District 6860 Leading the Way**

Alabama ranks third in cervical cancer mortality and sixth in incidence nationally based on the latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cervical cancer mortality in Alabama in 2022 was higher than in 1999 (2.6/100,000 vs. 3.1/100,000). Within Alabama, cervical cancer incidence varies drastically by county with the highest burden of disease found in rural counties.

Like polio, we have the tools to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem in our lifetime (HPV vaccination, cervical cancer screening, and appropriate follow-up/treatment). These tools are free and available through health insurance coverage or federally funded programs such as Vaccines for Children and the Alabama Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. The Rotary Club of Birmingham, the Rotary Club of LaFayette, the Alabama Department of Public Health, and other organizations partnered together to focus on the three cervical cancer elimination pillars in Chambers County, the county with the highest cervical cancer incidence in Alabama. This led to the development of a statewide action plan to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem in Alabama by 2033 and we are the first state in the U.S. to do so -<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/blog/2023/05/nr-08.html> .

This plan, known as Operation Wipe Out, was officially launched by Dr. Scott Harris, the State Health Officer, in May 2023 as a partnership between government, academia, civic, and non-profit organizations, including Rotary Clubs. This represents a great service opportunity for all Rotary Clubs in District 6860 to join their efforts and embark on this mission! If your club is interested, please mark your calendar to attend a Summit hosted by the Rotary Club of Birmingham on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025, in Gardendale, where you will be provided with the needed tools to implement this effort in your community.

To learn more on how you and your Club can join this effort lead by Rotarians in our District, please contact Dr. Isabel Scarinci at [iscarinci@uabmc.edu](mailto:iscarinci@uabmc.edu)

### **Pop Tab Challenge – Winning Club Declared at Mid-Year Conference**

Lisa Eckenrod of the Rotary Club of Homewood has arranged for our District to make a huge impact for families with children requiring extended hospital stays. As of this newsletter – I am kicking off the Rotary “Pop Tab Challenge,” which will be won by the Club collecting the most pop tops by our Mid Year Conference. Here are the details...

At Ronald McDonald House the actual cost to operate a room varies between \$50 and \$100 per night. Families either stay at no cost or are asked to make a donation up to \$25 per day. However, payment is never expected for those who cannot afford it.

It takes a lot to run a Ronald McDonald House. Ronald McDonald House Charity has a donation wish list – lots of things to purchase to help with their mission of helping families whose children are sick and in the hospital.

One thing that's not on their specific donation wish list is 'pop tabs'. Now ... isn't this something?! Here's a way to support RMHC that in reality *doesn't* cost you anything to participate. You've already purchased a can of soda, water, juice, an energy drink, or beer. Each of these cans come with the same item attached ... a pop tab. That pop tab has more usable aluminum than the can it's on.

As they say on their website ... "*Anyone*" can collect pop tabs, and that's what makes this program so great! It's an easy way to help families who call RMCH of Alabama "home," and I hope that you'll think of them whenever you recycle a pop tab.

They currently raise an average of \$10,000 a year from recycling pop tabs. I'm sure that with the combined efforts of the Rotary Clubs in the District we can help them reach their goal of \$15,000.

All pop tabs collected will be recycled and the proceeds donated to RMHC of Alabama to help with the cost of utilities and other essential services.

They request that when turning in the pop tabs place them in zip-lock bags, sturdy cardboard boxes, plastic storage tubs or wide-mouthed containers. Plastic soda bottles, milk jugs or other narrow-mouthed containers should not be used because they are difficult to empty.

Good luck Rotarians – Collect those tabs, bring them to the Mid Year Conference, and we will see who has the best tally in Gardendale this February!

### **World Polio Day – 24 October**

Help Rotary raise awareness for polio eradication and show your commitment by sharing some of these sample posts on your social media this week.

[https://www.endpolio.org/sites/default/files/eprn\\_sample\\_social\\_media\\_2023.docx](https://www.endpolio.org/sites/default/files/eprn_sample_social_media_2023.docx)

You can find a multitude of resources to advocate, fundraise, and educate on Rotary's Resource Center: <https://www.endpolio.org/resource-center#social-media>

For even greater impact, add a polio-related photo or video from [Rotary's Brand Center](#) to your post!

## **Disaster Relief Donations for Recent Hurricanes**

The Chair of the Trustees of the Rotary Foundation, our very own Mark Maloney, reminds us of ways we can support affected regions through the Rotary Foundation's Disaster Response Fund. Hurricane Helene and Milton have left devastation their wake. Now, communities are facing the immediate aftermath, with families displaced, homes destroyed, and critical infrastructure damaged. This is when we rely on your involvement, as we keep working to provide critical funding for essential relief and support recovery efforts.

When you donate to the Disaster Response Fund, our Foundation has the financial resources to help communities through immediate responses, short-term assistance, and long-term rebuilding efforts.

Your generosity enables Rotary to respond swiftly when a disaster strikes like Hurricane Helene and Milton, giving hope and support to people in Zones 30 and 31 and other communities affected by disasters.

Here's how you can take action:

- [Donate today](#) to the Disaster Response Fund.
- [Fundraise](#) with your friends, family, and colleagues using Raise for Rotary.

As a global humanitarian organization, Rotary is committed to taking action to support those affected by disasters like the recent Hurricanes and greatly appreciate your continued support.

I look forward to all the great synergies we can achieve by coming together in supporting Operation Wipe Out, The Pop Tab Challenge, World Polio Day, and disaster relief for Hurricanes Helene and Milton. These are just a few of the ways we can work together to help our communities. Please keep the great ideas coming, and I look forward to working with you as we continue to work the Magic of Rotary!

Regards,  
David

[David W. Allgood](#)

**District Governor 2024-25**  
**Rotary District 6860**

### **Key Events for November:**

4-10 Nov 24: World Interact Week

**Save the Dates:**

24 Oct: World Polio Day

4-10 Nov 24: World Interact Week

15 Dec 24: Last Day for Registration Discount (RI Convention, Calgary)

9-13 Feb 25: International Assembly - Orlando, FL (DGE Only)

5 Feb 25: Foundation Dinner - Florence

20-21 Feb 25: Mid-Year Conference & Pre-PETS - Gardendale, AL

20-22 Feb 25: RYLA at US Space & Rocket Center

22 Feb 25: RLI - Central United Methodist Church

24 Feb 25: Birthday of Rotary

04 Apr 25: District Learning Assembly - Gardendale, AL

10-16 Mar 25: World Rotaract Week

20-22 Mar 25: MSPETS - Chattanooga, TN (PE & PN)

30 Apr 25: RI Convention - Last Day to Register or Cancel

2-3 May 25: Multi-District Conference - Chattanooga, TN

31 May 25: RLI - Vestavia Hills Methodist Church

21-25 Jun 25: Rotary International Convention - Calgary, Alberta - Register now for best price

**RLI Session Dates:**

22 Feb 25 - Central United Methodist Church, Decatur, AL

31 May 25 - Vestavia Hills Methodist Church, Vestavia, AL