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RI CREATES HAITI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FUND

Rotary International News -- 14 January 2010

The Rotary Foundation has established the [Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund](#), a donor advised fund, to streamline the flow of contributions from U.S. Rotarians.

The fund will be directed by account holders who will work with local Rotary clubs and districts, as well as emergency relief agencies, to meet the most pressing needs of people in affected areas.

[Contribute now.](#)

AFGHANISTAN FIRST TO USE NEW POLIO VACCINE

By Dan Nixon Rotary International News -- 14 January 2010

A new oral polio vaccine, developed to stop the transmission of the type 1 and type 3 wild polioviruses simultaneously, made its world debut during 15-17 December Subnational Immunization Days in Afghanistan.

An estimated 2.8 million children received the vaccine during the campaign, which was funded by the Canadian government.

According to the [World Health Organization](#), the bivalent vaccine is also intended for introduction in India and Nigeria by late January and is expected to be a critical new tool in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

Of the three wild polioviruses, known as types 1, 2, and 3, type 2 hasn't been seen anywhere in the world since 1999. This achievement led to the development of monovalent vaccines, which provide more effective protection against a single type than the traditional trivalent vaccine. In a clinical field trial completed in June, the newly developed bivalent vaccine proved to be at least 30 percent more effective than the trivalent vaccine and almost as good as the monovalent vaccines.

As of 22 December, Afghanistan reported 31 polio cases in 2009, 28 of which occurred in the southern region. Families there are frequently on the move because of the changing security situation, limiting health workers' access to children. The bivalent vaccine simplifies the logistics of optimally protecting each child.

"The new vaccine will allow us to save time and energy and reach, eventually, many more children," said Sheila Noor, one of 21,000 health workers deployed by the Afghan Ministry of Health. "We explain to every mother that this time a new vaccine is used that will protect their children even better. They appreciate it."

One reason health workers encountered little resistance during the immunization campaign was the effectiveness of social mobilizers. Before the effort began, volunteers trained by WHO, UNICEF, and the health ministry visited homes and explained the importance of vaccination.

Another reason was the agreement of Taliban leaders to allow immunization in the areas they control. Health workers who went house to house to vaccinate children carried letters from these leaders endorsing the campaign.

The ongoing effort to end polio in the country is staunchly supported by Rotary's Afghanistan PolioPlus Committee, chaired by Ajmal Pardis, a member of the Rotary Club of Jalalabad.

"Eighty-four percent of Afghans live in parts that are polio-free, and they are not being reinfected despite the vast movement [of people] we have in this country," said WHO spokesperson Peter Graaff. "We are doing quite well, even in areas that are either disputed or under control of insurgents."

H₂O COLLABORATION WORK TO BEGIN

By Anne E. Stein Rotary International News -- 12 January 2010

Work will begin soon on far-reaching projects that will provide millions of people with access to clean water and improved sanitation.

As part of the [International H₂O Collaboration](#), an innovative alliance between Rotary International and [USAID](#), the improvements will include long-term water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in Ghana and the Philippines, two of the three countries selected for the first phase of the collaborative effort.

A grant application for the third country, the Dominican Republic, is expected to go before The Rotary Foundation Trustees later this month for consideration.

The steering committee chose the three countries based on need, as well as the demonstrated ability of Rotary clubs and districts and USAID missions there to carry out effective water and sanitation projects.

In Ghana, the alliance will work closely with local governments to provide hygiene training, boreholes, mechanized water systems, and new latrines. An estimated 86,000 people will benefit from the work, which will occur in 114 communities spread over four regions.



"It's going to make such a big difference in the lives of these people, though it's so small a number compared with the total number of people who need this," says Past District Governor K.O. "Willie" Keteku, who's helping to coordinate the projects. "Right now, it takes too much time for people to look for water, and the water's not clean. They get sick, and their time could instead be invested in other ventures, like the children attending school."

In the Philippines, the alliance will be working in five communities -- Davao City, Dipolog, Metro Manila, San Fernando City, and Zamboanga -- to provide new septic treatment facilities, sanitation systems, river cleanup efforts, a mechanized water supply system, and community water taps that will distribute filtered water. The work is expected to help more than 2.1 million people.

"We are really fortunate to have been one of the three countries selected," says Lina Aurelio, a past governor of District 3800 involved in organizing the improvements. "So many children die here because of polluted water. It's a very big problem, almost all over the country."

"Everyone buys water, even those earning minimum wage, but in the slum areas they can't afford to," Aurelio says. "There are millions of cases of diarrhea each year that cause 11,000 to 12,000 deaths annually. Because of the very bad sewage system we have, everything is affected."

In the Dominican Republic, the alliance will implement a wide range of water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions, including [bio-sand filters](#) in a small cluster of *bateyes* (communities of current and former sugar plantation and mill workers). When the initial phase is completed, the collaboration will evaluate the work and consider expanding it to other nations.

The improvements will cost about US\$2 million per country. Rotary will provide up to \$500,000 through Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants, and participating clubs and districts in each country will raise an additional \$500,000. USAID will contribute \$1 million per nation from its mission budget.

SPOON PROJECT A MEASURE OF SUCCESS

By Ryan Hyland Rotary International News -- 11 January 2010

Past RI President Dong Kurn Lee asked Rotarians in 2008-09 to *Make Dreams Real*. With an idea, a spoon, and an eager young club, Helen Batting did just that. Literally.

About two years ago, Batting, president of the Rotary Club of East London Sunrise, South Africa, woke up in the middle of the night with an amazing idea. She had dreamed of a simple spoon design that would save the lives of children in South Africa who were dehydrated because of diarrhea.

"As a child, I remember my mother telling me about a spoon she created that saved hundreds of children's lives," says Batting. "I never saw the spoon, but I dreamed of them one night, woke up, and knew exactly what they should look like."

Batting designed a [double-ended spoon](#) that measures the exact amount of sugar and salt to be added to a cup of boiling water to create a rehydration fluid.

Clinics currently instruct mothers to pour 8 teaspoons of sugar and 1/2 teaspoon of salt into about a quart of boiling water to create a rehydration solution known as Darrow's fluid, which also combats potassium deficiency. But the method requires a certain level of literacy and mathematical skills.

"Many mothers, especially in rural communities, are functionally illiterate, which means they may not be able to count or do fractions," Batting says. "If mixed incorrectly, it actually exacerbates the problem. We aren't changing the method, just simplifying it. One and one into one, and it's done!"

Only nine months after its charter in 2008, the East London Sunrise club used Batting's spoon design, now under patent, and launched the East London Sunrise Spoon of Hope initiative.

The project, recognized last year with an [RI Significant Achievement Award](#), has produced and distributed more than 60,000 spoons to families in rural communities and medical clinics in Eastern Cape, South Africa. A large shipment of spoons has been sent to Zimbabwe as well.

Club members have helped manufacture, market, and promote the spoons.

Because her club was so new, the support of District 9320 (Lesotho; South Africa) and local clubs became an invaluable asset to the project's early success, says Batting. Fifteen clubs donated more than US\$125 to get the project started. Each spoon costs less than 50 cents to purchase.

The spoon has garnered praise from many health care professionals, including Trudy Thomas, a children's advocate and former member of the Executive Council of the Legislature for Health in the Eastern Cape, as a simple, practical, and effective medical intervention.

"The beauty of this is that it only requires ingredients which are available even in the poorest communities and which can be administered by people with little or no education," says Thomas.

Batting is grateful for the project's widespread support. "So many people recognized the project's potential. We received an enormous amount of encouragement, energy, and help from fellow clubs and district leaders," she says. "It has been an exhilarating experience for me to have been picked up and carried along by an amazing Rotary movement."



THE CHARM



STUDENT OF THE MONTH: TRYSTAN AYALA

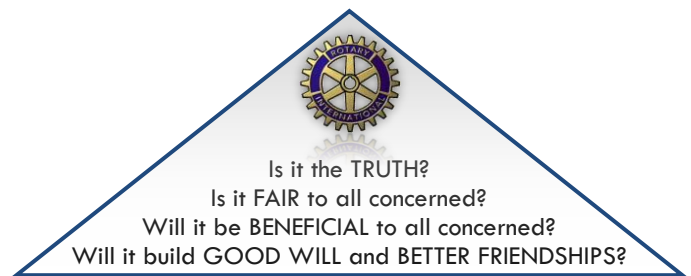


Top: Mr. Ayala, Helen Street School Principal Lynn Kelleher, Trystan's teacher Karen Franklin, Mrs. Ayala
Bottom: Jacob Ayala, **Trystan Ayala**

MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Jan 18 th	Update: Club Assembly
Mon	Feb 8 th	Student of the Month
Mon	Feb 22 nd	Rotary's 105 th Anniversary
Sat	Feb 27 th	District Leadership Seminar
Sat	Mar 13 th	World Rotaract Day
Mon	Mar 15 th	Student of the Month
Mon	Apr 12 th	Student of the Month
Sat	Apr 17 th	District Assembly – Meriden
Fri-Sun	Apr 30 th -May 2 nd	District Conference – Burlington VT
Mon	May 10 th	Student of the Month
Sun-Wed	Jun 20 th – 23 rd	International Convention Montreal

Of the things we think, say, or do...



Trystan is not only our Student of the Month for being a really great kid with a heart for helping others, but his poetry was also recently selected to be one of twelve pieces in the entire school district to be printed in the school district's calendar.

Trystan received an award certificate in recognition of being selected as student of the month, but will also have a brick placed at the Hamden Rotary Pavilion with his name on it and the date he was recognized; January 11th 2010.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

A tough old cowboy told his grandson that the secret to long life was sprinkling a little gunpowder on his oatmeal every morning.

The grandson did this religiously and, sure enough, lived to the ripe old age of 96. When he died, he left behind 7 children, 28 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, 3 great-great grandchildren and a 15-foot hole in the wall of the crematorium.