



**Waunakee
Rotary
Club**

**June 5, 2008
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Eradicating polio worldwide is a personal issue for Randy Sproul. The District 6250 Representative for Polio Plus, Randy said his father contracted the disease.

At the May 29 Rotary meeting, Randy updated the members on the Rotary International fight to eradicate polio.

Randy said he thinks about polio and those who suffer years later from post polio degenerative condition.

In 1961, a vaccine was developed and polio was pretty much eradicated in the United States. But around the globe, hundreds of thousands of children continued to suffer from polio. Then in 1985, Rotary International raised funds to distribute the vaccine.

But there were obstacles to Rotary's efforts to vaccinate children worldwide. In some countries, civil conflicts and extreme poverty prevented eradication. In other countries, lack of transportation obstructed access to vaccinations. Other countries without electricity to keep the vaccine refrigerated complicated Rotary's efforts.

But throughout the world, Rotary volunteers persevered, and today, polio exists in only four countries – Nigeria, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, Sproul said.

Rotarians' efforts worldwide have resulted in preventing 6 million children from contracting the disease – children who are healthy and playing rather than on crutches or in wheelchairs.

Randy told club members to imagine if those children were affected by the disease.

"Imagine going up to those children and saying, 'Throw away those crutches. You are free of

polio,' " he said to the club.

Rotarians are busy people, and some find it difficult to volunteer. Sometimes they ask themselves if their volunteer work is worth it.

"Ask those children if Rotarians are making a difference," Randy said.

Randy said Rotary is close to realizing its dream of a polio free world. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has agreed to match up to \$100 million over three years to eradicate polio. If every Rotarian were to donate \$20 per year over the three years, that goal could be realized.

One District 6250 Rotarian has agreed to put \$10,000 to match other Rotarians' donations. That means if a Rotarian in District 6250 were to donate \$100 to Polio Plus, it would first be matched by the local grant and then matched by the Gates Foundation grant, generating \$400 toward Polio Plus.

Randy said the effort is about more than eradicating polio worldwide. As long as there is one active case of polio, every child must continue to be vaccinated, he said.

Completely eradicating the disease would eliminate the need for vaccinations, and that would realize a medical savings in excess of \$1 billion that could be freed up and used toward research in other areas.

"Let's finish the job we started 23 years ago, so someday we can celebrate the fact that polio is eradicated," Randy said.

Phil Willems said throughout the month of June, a jar for donations to Polio Plus will be at the meetings for members to contribute.

Other news:

OFFICERS

LYNNE SPIELMAN, PRESIDENT • DAN STATZ, PRESIDENT ELECT
PHIL WILLEMS, CLUB SECRETARY
BOB PULVERMACHER, RECORDING SECRETARY • AL DASSOW, TREASURER

DIRECTORS

TOM REIS • LORI DERAUF • BILL ERICKSON

•President Lynne Spielman announced that the club received a thank you from Paul Gilbertson of With Wings and a Halo for its donation. That organization provides backpacks filled with books for children in crisis.

Guests: Vic Endres and Paul Dominie, guests of Connie Blau.

Visiting Rotarians: Sarah Dekraay, Sun Prairie; Randy Sproul, District Representative for Polio Plus.

Birthdays: June 5, Ed Niebuhr.

Anniversaries: June 7, Craig and Judy Larson; June 11, Rod and Wendy Cupp.

Prayers: June 5, Leonard Allen; June 12, Kim Wilde; June 19, Pat Durden.

Programs: June 5, Club Assembly.

Greeters: June 5, Bob Arntz and Ken Ballweg; June 12, Ron Ballweg and Roberta Baumann; June 19, Connie Blau and Jim Brussell.

**Make up
meetings online**

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.