

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

PURPLE PINKIE POLIO PROJECT

PARENT PERMISSION

In 1985, Rotary International began raising funds in an effort to eliminate Polio worldwide. Polio has not been a problem in the United States for many years, although cases were reported in some eastern states last year. By partnering with the World Health Organization, the Bill Gates Foundation, and other government and private groups, Rotary International has achieved a 99 percent reduction of Polio worldwide. Our local Rotary Club of Los Alamos has been participating in this effort from the beginning. Presently, through the Purple Pinkie Project, we wish to make the Los Alamos Public Schools students part of the solution.

On Friday, Oct 24th, 2025, several members of the Rotary Club of Los Alamos will visit your child's school. Since \$1.00 is the approximate cost to immunize one child from Polio, the students have been encouraged to bring \$1.00 or more to help with this cause. When your child puts \$1.00 in the Purple Pinkie Bucket, we will paint his pinkie with Gentian Violet as a symbol of one child immunized from Polio. Of course, more than one finger may be painted if more than \$1.00 is donated!

Gentian Violet is a topical dye used by Rotary International to mark children after they have been immunized from Polio. This prevents double dosage. Since it is widely used by nursing mothers and in the mouths of infants, it is very safe. Its safety has been confirmed by our Health Department and local pharmacists. However, Gentian Violet is brilliantly purple and will leave your child's finger colored for a day or two. To prevent staining on things other than fingers, we will dip and immediately dry the finger with paper towels.

If you wish for your child to participate in this project, please sign below.

Parent or Guardian Signature

Print Student's Name

Rotary Club of Los Alamos



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Every Last Child...

Polio, also known as Poliomyelitis, once paralyzed and killed millions of people worldwide. However, due to the relentless efforts of Rotary International, global health organizations, governments, and dedicated healthcare workers, we are now on the verge of eliminating this crippling disease. Over the past few decades, immense progress has been made in eradicating Polio, bringing us closer than ever to achieving a Polio-free world.

One of the key factors driving the progress towards global Polio eradication has been the widespread immunization campaigns conducted across the globe. The development of the oral Polio vaccine (OPV) by Dr. Albert Sabin in the 1960s marked a significant breakthrough, as it provided an effective and affordable way to vaccinate children against the virus. Since then, countless children have been reached, vaccinated, and protected from the devastating effects of Polio.

The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), launched in 1988 by the World Health Organization (WHO), Rotary International, UNICEF, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has played a pivotal role in coordinating the global efforts against Polio. Through this collaborative initiative, the number of reported Polio cases has significantly decreased from hundreds of thousands in 1988 to just a handful in recent years.

Despite remarkable progress, challenges persist in eradicating Polio completely. In certain regions especially Afghanistan & Pakistan, and now Gaza, conflict, insecurity, and poor infrastructure hinder access to remote areas, making it difficult to reach all children with the vaccine. Yet, these barriers have sparked innovations that have revolutionized Polio eradication strategies. From the use of mobile technologies and community engagement programs to conducting vaccination campaigns at transit points, efforts are being made to overcome obstacles and ensure every child is protected.

Community engagement has been critical in the fight against Polio. By working closely with local communities, building trust, and addressing concerns, healthcare workers have been able to ensure higher vaccine coverage rates. Awareness campaigns, involving religious leaders, community influencers, and parents, have helped debunk myths and misconceptions surrounding vaccines, reinforcing the importance of immunization and its role in eradicating Polio. And donated funds matched 2:1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation are essential to pay for the vaccine costs.

Your Small Change makes a Big Difference!

As the world grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting gains made in Polio eradication becomes more crucial than ever. The GPEI, along with its partners, remains committed to reaching every last child with the Polio vaccine, regardless of their geographic location or socio-economic background. Through relentless dedication, investment, and solidarity, we can build on the progress achieved thus far and ensure a Polio-free world for future generations.

The progress made in the eradication of Polio is undeniably remarkable. From hundreds of thousands of cases to just a handful, the global community has come closer to wiping this ancient disease off the face of the earth. With continued efforts, innovation, and strong community engagement, we can realize the dream of a world without Polio, ensuring a healthier future for all. Join us as we remain united in our mission, as we strive to create a world where no child will ever have to suffer from Polio again.

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CAUSE