



**ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH STAFFORD CO.-GARRISONVILLE**  
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**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Rotary Club of North Stafford County-Garrisonville  
and Stafford County Public Schools work together to eradicate polio through the Purple  
Pinky Project**

[STAFFORD/OCTOBER 5, 2009] –The North Stafford County Garrisonville Rotary Club has partnered with Stafford County Public Schools to help eradicate polio. Through their partnership the Polio Purple Pinky Project has come to our community in a unique way.

Rotary clubs here and around the world are determined to do whatever it takes to achieve a world free of the crippling disease polio. A major part of that effort is to raise \$200 million in response to a challenge grant of \$355 million from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

That may seem a daunting task, but Rotary's track record shows it can be done with perseverance and hard work. Since launching its landmark PolioPlus Program in 1985, the volunteer service organization already has contributed more than \$800 million to the cause, not to mention countless volunteer hours logged by Rotary members.

For example, the North Stafford County–Garrisonville Rotary Club will host an information and Purple Pinky painting table at each of the five community H1N1 (swine flu) vaccine clinics being held at Stafford County's High Schools during October. The name “purple pinkie” comes from the purple dye painted on a child’s finger to show they have been immunized. Taking advantage of an opportunity to reach up to 600 Stafford families each evening, the NSC-G Rotary will educate the community on the continued need for Rotary to provide polio outreach to developing nations.

This venue allows Rotary to get parental permission for pinky painting at the event and does not impact the educational requirements of the school division. The club has also partnered with a local business, Dan's Wellness Pharmacy, which is providing the supplies for painting the pinkies! One hundred percent of the funds raised by Rotary at these events will go directly to eradicate polio.

Although the polio epidemic may be a distant memory to many-- cases have been slashed by 99 percent worldwide -- it still threatens children in parts of Africa and South Asia.

Indeed, for as little as 60 cents worth of oral polio vaccine, a child can be protected for life.

However, a major funding gap now faces the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, of which Rotary is a spearheading partner (along with the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and UNICEF). Twenty years of steady progress is at stake, and polio -- now on the ropes -- stands to stage a dangerous comeback unless the funding gap is bridged.

In response to the funding crisis, Rotary eagerly accepted a US\$355 million challenge grant from the Gates Foundation, which Rotary will match with an additional US\$200 million over three years, raising a much needed US\$555 million, all of it dedicated to polio eradication.

Rotary's worldwide membership of 1.2 million men and women -- representing about 33,000 clubs in nearly 200 countries -- immediately embraced the effort by digging deeper into their own pockets, planning special fundraisers and rallying community support. Rotary invites everyone who wants to learn more about this historic opportunity to end polio once and for all to visit [www.rotary.org/endpolio](http://www.rotary.org/endpolio).