

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, RIM COUNTRY ROTARY CLUB AND ROTARY CLUB OF PAYSON will observe WORLD POLIO DAY, on October 24, 2015. This is a positive initiative to create awareness and educate the citizens of PAYSON about the vital importance to eradicate Polio worldwide. Rotary brings 110 years of history to this initiative. Its members are business, professional and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. RIM COUNTRY ROTARY CLUB AND ROTARY CLUB OF PAYSON, are two of 35,109 Rotary clubs located in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, that initiate service projects to address today's challenges, including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and environmental concerns.

WHEREAS, In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus program, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.3 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$9 billion to the effort.

WHEREAS, When Rotary began its mission to eradicate polio more than 350,000 children were stricken with polio every year, and nearly 1,000 people were affected by the crippling disease every day. Since then, polio cases have been reduced by 99.9% to fewer than 42 cases as of September 23, 2015. Today only two countries – Afghanistan and Pakistan - remain polio-endemic. Due to the efforts of Rotary and its partners, the world is on the threshold of ending polio forever – making it only the second disease after smallpox to be eradicated.

WHEREAS, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded \$355 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio, \$200 million as a challenge grant to Rotary, one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest received by Rotary in its 115-year history. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative, formed in 1988, is a public-private partnership that includes Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and governments of the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and awareness-building.

WHEREAS, Polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985, with more than \$1.3 billion to the effort. Bill Gates praised Rotary for providing the volunteers, advocates, and donors who have helped bring about a 99.9 percent decline in the number of polio cases. "The world would not be where it is without Rotary, and it won't get where it needs to go without Rotary," Gates said. Rotary is now nearing the three-quarter mark – having raised \$140+ million of the \$200 million challenge. Every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched two-to-one by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation up to \$35 million a year through 2018. These funds help to provide much-needed operational support medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents. Government, corporations and private individuals all play a crucial role in funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kenny J. Evans, Mayor of the Town of Payson, Arizona, do hereby proclaim:

**OCTOBER 24, 2015**  
**AS**  
**WORLD POLIO DAY**  
**AND**  
**OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2015**

OCT 15 2015 D.S

**AS**  
**WORLD POLIO WEEK**

The RIM COUNTRY ROTARY CLUB AND ROTARY CLUB OF PAYSON initiatives are two more community efforts to invite the citizens of PAYSON to support Rotary's goal. The world stands firmly on the threshold of victory thanks to the achievements of the last 30 years. A polio-free world will be Rotary's ultimate gift to children everywhere and one small step in helping Rotary achieve its goal.

WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the Town of Payson, Arizona, to be affixed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015.

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Kenny J. Evans, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Silvia Smith, Town Clerk