



The 2008-2009 Chairman of Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, Past RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe has set five Goals for Rotarians this year. These goals break the Foundation's mission into five achievable pieces.

The first goal is to keep our promise to the world's children in particular by continuing the **Eradication of Polio** throughout the world.

We have progressed so far in this task that we cannot put at risk all the hard work and funds that those who have gone before us have contributed. Polio is only a plane ride away, as many countries (including Australia) have discovered, so a constant effort to wipe out the virus is essential in our quest.

From 355,000 cases per year (i.e. 1,000 cases per day) and 125 countries where polio was endemic in 1985 when we started out, we have reduced the extent of polio down to less than 1300 cases last year (about 3.2 per day) in limited sections of only 4 countries.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has shown enormous faith in Rotary and Rotarians by providing \$100 million dollars for PolioPlus in the form of a Challenge Grant. We are required to match this sum over 3 years – but to not diminish our other fundraising for “OUR” Rotary Foundation. It has been reckoned that \$US1000 per club per year over the coming 3 years will provide this sum.

Because, when Polio Plus commenced, in 1985, many present Rotarians were not members, they are specially being asked to strongly assist us to bring this project to a successful conclusion. Furthermore, in order to maintain other Foundation contributions, clubs are asked to develop new projects specifically to meet the **Gates \$100m.Challenge**. The embracing of the public in these projects will help provide vital publicity not just for PolioPlus, but also for Rotary itself and for your club.

With new leadership, new techniques and new technology we are within sight of the finish, but a sustained effort is vital to fulfil our promise to eradicate polio.

Your effort and that of all your club-members is essential.

For more information go to: www.rotary.org/foundation