



Rotary International Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rotary is a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, inspires members to provide humanitarian service, follow high ethical standards, and promote goodwill and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed more than US\$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary is working to raise an additional \$50 million per year, which would be leveraged for maximum impact by an additional \$100 million annually from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are providing much-needed operational support, medical staff, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort; and

WHEREAS, there are three Rotary clubs in the Lake Wales area, The Rotary Club of Lake Wales, Lake Wales Breakfast Rotary, and Rotary on the Ridge along with more than 35,000 other clubs throughout the world that sponsor service projects, raise funds, and work diligently to continue to battle this ongoing worthwhile effort;

Therefore, I, Eugene L. Fultz, **Mayor** of the **City of Lake Wales** of Polk County Florida, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2020 as

World Polio Day

in Lake Wales and encourage all citizens to join me, the Rotarians of Lake Wales and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

Eugene L. Fultz, Mayor