

The Rotary Club of Crystal River



# Crystal River Review

*We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give – Winston Churchill*

[www.crystalriverrotary.org](http://www.crystalriverrotary.org)

Jamie Mick, District Governor

Marc Shapot, President

January 7, 2013



Top of the News..... **January is Rotary Awareness Month! Be sure to share Rotary.**

### **POLIO – are we there yet?**

**THE CHILDREN IN GADAP TOWN LIKE TO PLAY TEA PARTY. THERE ARE NO LITTLE TEA SETS HERE, NOT IN THIS DENSELY PACKED, GRINDINGLY** poor Pakistani slum, the biggest in the megacity of Karachi. So children scavenge bottle caps and piles of trash near the foul smelling stream that flows through the town. Using them as cups, they sip the filthy water, imagining perhaps what it would be like to sit down at a real tea party one day. What the children don't think about is the poliovirus that swirls in the water, deposited there by human waste-the biggest reason the stream is so foul to begin with. They know nothing of the way a cupful of water can introduce the virus to the mucus membranes of the mouth, where it binds with cells in the pharynx, replicates there and then migrates to the gut and the lymph system-multiplying explosively all the while-until it finds its way to the central nervous system, slaughtering the motor neurons that allow muscles to move as they should, leading to paralysis of the legs, sometimes the arms and occasionally the muscles that control breathing.

"Gadap Town is a polio factory," says Dr. Salah Tumsah, a polio expert with the World Health Organization (WHO). It's not the only such factory in the country. Anyplace there's an open sewer or an unclean dish, anyplace children come into contact with children, the virus could be growing.

Pakistan once had plenty of company in battling the polio scourge. As recently as 1988, the disease was endemic to 125 countries, paralyzing or killing 350,000 people each year-mostly children. Thanks to exhaustive medical, philanthropic and political teamwork, the virus has been routed, corralled into only three countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria. In 2012, there were only 215 cases worldwide.

Only one other time in human history has a disease-smallpox-been wiped out in the wild. Polio, that fearsomecrippler of children, scourge of peasants and Presidents, could soon become the second, unless the entire crusade, so close to completion, itself becomes a casualty of war.

In December, during a polio-vaccine drive in Pakistan, nine field workers-six of them women or teenage girls-were killed in motorcycle drive-by shootings linked to the Pakistani Taliban. On Jan. 1, six more women and one man-all of them medical aid workers-were similarly shot to death. All of that bloodshed followed a Taliban order last June to halt the scheduled immunization of 161,000 children in North Waziristan province until American drone strikes stop.

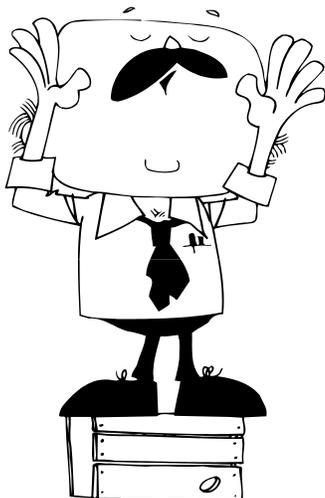
"In the garb of these vaccination campaigns," said one piece of propaganda, "the U.S. and its allies are running their spying networks." There is no truth in that, but the lie got legs in 2011 when it was revealed that in the run-up to the killing of Osama bin Laden, a Pakistani doctor masqueraded as a hepatitis-vaccine worker in an attempt to collect cheek swabs from family members in bin Laden's compound to try to confirm he was living there.

Continued on next page....

### **The Rotary Club of Crystal River is looking for a few good men and women!**

Always be on the lookout for a candidate to become a member.....some of the open classifications we have: dentist, law enforcement, non-elected government official, social worker, health field, plumber, electrician, fitness professional.

Remember, we don't take applications, we take commitments! ....a steal from the Marine Corps!



#### **Remember these dates:**

- Jan. 18-20 Manatee Festival
- Feb 5 – dinner with RI President
- Feb 9 – Rotary Goes to the Dogs
- Feb 20 – Sandler Training
- Feb 23- Purple Pinky day

#### **Birthdays - Enjoy!**

Carolyn Quintanilla Jan. 13

#### **Wedding Anniversaries**

None this week but kiss your partner anyway!

#### **Club Anniversaries**

Paul Cash	1/1/95	18yrs
Greg Hager	1/1/93	20yrs
Roger Horn	1/1/83	30yrs
K.C. Nayfield	1/1/83	30yrs,
plus 10 years in a previous club		
Keith Taylor	1/12/98	15yrs

**Today, please welcome Andy Houston who is the City Manager for Crystal River and he will share the "The State of the City" address!**

Polio continued.....

Extremists have never needed such kernels of truth to sabotage vaccine efforts, however-not when rumor mongering, much of it outlandish, can scare the public into refusing immunizations. The polio vaccine contains HIV, they are told. It's made from pig or monkey urine. It's meant to sterilize children. Whether it's because of fear of outsiders or general suspicion of anything touched by the West, the lies work.

"We are an illiterate people," says Saiful Islam, a shopkeeper in Mohib Banda, near Peshawar, in northern Pakistan. "When one person says something, we don't ask where he learned it. We just believe it." Islam believed, and when polio workers came in July, he refused to let them vaccinate his 6-month-old daughter. Now she wears pink braces with black Velcro straps on her little legs and squirms as he exercises her left foot to prevent it from curling in on itself.

Alot of the progress that's been made so far is due to the efforts of Rotary International, which in 1979-the year polio was declared eradicated in the U.S.-decided to make it the mission of its then 18,000clubs and 850,000 members worldwide to wipe out the disease everywhere. UNICEF,WHO and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control have put their muscle behind the push, and in 2007, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined in as well, spending \$1 billion so far to battle the disease. "I'm very focused on impact per dollar," Gates said at a September meeting of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council--a meeting also attended by the Presidents of all three endemic countries and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. "This is one of the smartest allocations of resources the world can make."

Despite the shootings in Pakistan, the most worrisome place in terms of caseload is Nigeria. It's the only country whose polio rates actually went up in 2012, to 118 cases compared with 62 in 2011. (In Pakistan, there were 57 cases in 2012and 198 in 2011.) Nigeria's problem area continues to be the north, with antivaccine propaganda again leading to refusals. In 2012,WHO dramatically increased its presence in the country, from 744workers to 2,948. It is also using satellite mapping to reach children in villages that, says John Hewko, general secretary of Rotary International, "we didn't even know existed."

Afghanistan, so often a source of trouble in the region, is moving comparatively smoothly toward eradication, with just 35 cases in 2012, down from 80 in 2011. The Islamic Development Bank has made a \$3 million grant to Afghanistan to help antipolio efforts. That's just a small fraction of the \$227 million the bank made available to Pakistan, also for polio vaccinations, but the disparity in funding partly reflects the disparity in need. What's more, the fact that the bank is involved at all suggests a regional buy-in that was lacking before.

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**If you would like to read the entire article, I'll be happy to email it to you.**

*The 4 Way Test...  
of the things we Think, Say or Do*

*Is it the Truth?*

*Is it Fair to all concerned?*

*Will it build Goodwill and better  
Friendships?*

*Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?*

### **Rotary Club of Crystal River Leadership:**

Club President 2012-13	Marc Shapot
Club president 2013-14	Keith Taylor
Club President 2014-15	Fancy Taylor
Immediate past President	Larry Masut
Club Secretary	Alison Markham
Club Treasurer	Grant Bryson
Club Foundation Chair	Cliff Pierson
Club Foundation Treasurer	Paul Cash
Rotary Foundation Chair	Don Shook
Membership Chair	
Public Relations chairs	Laura Sullivan Mike Buchanan
Club Administration	Robin Dearden Billy Sasser
Club Programs	KC Nayfield
Club Service	Blair Commons
Club Sergeant at Arms	Robin Dearden
Interact Advisor	Don Shook