

WE'RE STILL HERE and so is the POLIO VIRUS

As we approach World Polio Day on October 24, we are reminded that we still have work to do. The Global Polio Eradication Initiative has determined that Polio is the World's Only Public Health Emergency of International Concern. Polio still poses a risk of international spread as noted with detections of variant poliovirus around the world in several previously polio-free countries, including Canada, Israel, Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the United States.



Joe Randig of Butler is given the polio vaccine by Dr. Jonas Salk. Joe and his family were part of the 1954 field trials.

The goal of polio awareness has a dual purpose: to draw attention to the estimated 1 million polio survivors in North America, the vast majority of whom are realizing the disabling effects of Post-Polio Syndrome. And to draw attention to the importance of being immunized against polio and all crippling childhood diseases.

Even as Rotary International and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative move toward achieving the goal of eradicating the wild polio virus through vaccination, we cannot forget that the World Health Organization estimates there are 15+million polio survivors worldwide, the majority of whom are living with Post-Polio Sequelae and the disability caused by the polio virus.

PA Polio Survivors Network celebrates Rotary International's focus on disease prevention and the Global Polio Eradication Initiative for their determined efforts to rid the world of polio. Polio hasn't been eradicated yet. The foreign origin of the polio virus that paralyzed the unvaccinated man in New York in 2022 is a painful reminder that polio and other preventable diseases are only a plane ride away. If polio exists anywhere, it is a threat to children everywhere.

The PA Polio Survivors Network, managed by and for polio survivors, is in service to bring support and information to polio survivors, families, caregivers and healthcare providers.

Donations to END POLIO NOW can be made to Rotary or our website. The Gates Foundation will double your donation. ■

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For PA Polio Survivors Network
www.polionetwork.org