



Pennsylvania Polio Survivor's Network

Our Purpose -

Polio survivors all over the globe are becoming more disabled and are sadly desperate for quality care and recognition that Post-Polio Syndrome exists. More than 80% of Polio Survivors will develop some form of it later in life.

Polio survivors share an interesting trait. Until Post-Polio Syndrome takes over our bodies, we don't talk about having been a survivor. For us, it was over, done. We had gone forward. What's even sadder is that with the misdiagnosis that exists, way too many survivors *never* talk about it. We are working to find them and let them know that if they want it, there *is* good care and information available from credible sources. Of greatest importance, we want them to realize that they are no longer alone.

We live by the first line of the Mission Statement.

“To Be in Service Providing Information to Polio Survivors, Post-Polio Support Groups, Survivor's Families and their Caregivers”

Without question, our challenge has been to get ‘out’ into the public eye the information that we exist and that there *is* help for survivors. Our working team has one priority – the Mission Statement above. If what we are about to do doesn't match that, we don't do it. Our only priority is our mission to “Be in Service”.

Polio Awareness

Our ongoing goal of awareness has a dual purpose.

- The first being to draw attention to the estimated 1+ million Polio Survivors in the US, the majority of whom are realizing the disabling effects of Post-Polio Syndrome.
- Second and equally important is to draw attention to the importance of being immunized against this crippling disease.

In April, 1955 the Salk vaccine enabled children to be protected against the polio virus. Polio virtually disappeared in the US in a very short time; and was “officially” declared eradicated in the United States in 1979. The few outbreaks since then (mostly due to unvaccinated children) have been controlled. We celebrate the efforts of Rotary International's “End Polio Now” campaign that is leading the effort to vaccinate children in every corner of the world.

Even as Rotary International and the Gates Foundation move toward achieving the goal of eradicating the live poliovirus through vaccination, we must not forget that the World Health Organization estimates there are 15+ Million polio survivors throughout the world -- one million plus in the US alone -- living with Post-Polio Sequelae and the disability caused by the polio virus.

For more on Polio Awareness and Post-Polio Syndrome -

<http://www.papolionetwork.org/polio-awareness.html>

<http://www.papolionetwork.org/living-with-post-polio-syndrome.html>

For more on the History of the Polio Vaccine -

<http://www.papolionetwork.org/polio---the-history.html>

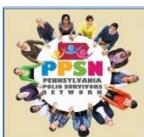
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(We are a registered 501C3 Organization)