



PA Polio Survivor's Network
Serving ALL Polio Survivors and their Caregivers
from the Keystone State and Beyond

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. As many as 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 work by the first line of our Mission Statement:

"To Be in Service Providing Information to all 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 700,000+ 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 polio and *all* crippling childhood diseases.

In April, 1955 the Salk vaccine enabled children to be protected against the poliovirus. Polio virtually disappeared in the US in a very short time; and was "officially" declared eradicated in the United States in 1979. 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 Global Polio Eradication Initiative move toward achieving the goal of eradicating the wild poliovirus through vaccination, we must not forget that the World Health Organization estimates there are 15+ Million polio survivors throughout the world – as many as 700,000+ in the US alone -- living with Post-Polio Sequelae and the disability caused by the poliovirus.

For more on Post-Polio Syndrome:

www.papolionetwork.org/living-with-post-polio-syndrome

For more on the History of the Polio Vaccine:

www.papolionetwork.org/polio-the-vaccines

For more on the History of Polio:

www.papolionetwork.org/polio-history



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(We are a registered 501C3 Organization)