



Manna from Atlanta

From Jenny Horton of Kenmore Club
on the Polio Eradication Trail



"Jenny Horton" <yen283@gmail.com>

01 February 2009

Greetings from Atlanta!

Now this is different! Manna from a polio-free country. But that is where I am right now ... alongside 35 public health professionals from 21 different countries who heading out this week to 17 different countries to support their polio eradication and routine immunization activities. It is really incredible to be part of this team all of whom are giving up the comforts of home and security of their jobs for 3 months (sometimes longer) to support this program as a volunteer.



STOPpers in training

Making friends



This group is called a STOP (Stop the Transmission of Polio) Team and is supported by the National Ministries of Health, Rotary, WHO, Canadian Public Health Association, UNICEF and CDC (US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention). In Atlanta we are trained by WHO, CDC and UNICEF, updating us with global and country specific issues of the program, as well as other issues like security. STOP team offer technical support to the program in association with the national government. While in country each of us is accountable to WHO or UNICEF with the same responsibilities as our paid counterparts working within the program.

10th Anniversary of STOP

This current team of consultants is the 30th group deployed over a period of 10 years. So far over 1000 public health professionals have volunteered and been placed in 59 different countries for a 3 month placement. On Jan 26th a reception was held to celebrate this event in the CDC Global Odyssey Museum, with many of the CDC staff, reps from

Rotary and WHO, several past STOP team members as well as the current team.

Delivering an address



Awards for all

I was privileged to speak at this on behalf of STOP which for me was a huge honour. Just to be inside CDC is incredible let alone responding on behalf of the program was awesome. STOP team members increase the in-country staff to accelerate the progress toward polio eradication. Each STOPper would give over 900 hours of volunteer time to the program on their assignment.

My STOP commitments have taken me to work in Ethiopia (twice), Botswana, Pakistan and now Nigeria and it has been an honour to serve polio eradication in this technical capacity. This program builds bridges between nations, cultures, programs and people as we work towards our goals and for me it was particularly relevant to be here in the USA for Martin Luther King Day and the inauguration of President Obama as we all felt the intensity of these events.

Congratulations STOP on the incredible support of polio eradication.

Polio Global Update

As 2008 ends we see a slight rise in cases reported but despite the numbers progress has been made especially in India.



Manna from Atlanta

From Jenny Horton of Kenmore Club
on the Polio Eradication Trail



"Jenny Horton" <yen283@gmail.com>

01 February 2009

Total Cases	Year to date 2008*	Year to date 2007*	Year to date 2009*
Globally	1643	1315	2
Pakistan	118	32	1
India	556	874	1
Afghanistan	31	17	0
Nigeria	791	285	0
No of countries with virus.	18	11	2

*data as of 27 Jan 2009

In 2008 we saw

- 241 Supplementary Immunization Activities (SIAs) of which 102 were in the 4 endemic countries.
- 340 million children received OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine) during SIAs.
- 210 million received mOPV1, 140 million mOPV3 and 275 million tOPV (mOPV = monovalent OPV= 1 strain of OPV and tOPV= trivalent OPV = combined 3 strains of OPV).
- Vaccine use: 2.46 billion doses (1.22 billion mOPV1, 370 million mOPV3 and 870 million tOPV).
- In India alone 1.5 billion doses were used.

India has made great progress in the reduction of spread of Type 1 virus and is continuing to focus on the elimination of this serotype this year, and then there will be a concentrated effort to eliminate type 3. Nigeria has increased government commitment from the highest levels. 2009 will be a positive year for polio eradication I am sure.

eradication through Rotary and the visits to both Nigeria and India by Bill Gates are a real boost to the program. Rotarians world wide now have a further challenge to match a total of \$200million of the Gates funds. This will bring an increase in community awareness as members seek further funds to support the program. I know there are many activities happening worldwide.

Coming UP!

On 8 February, I head for Nigeria for a 3 month STOP assignment along with 8 other colleagues from around the world. I was really happy when I was given Nigeria as my country for this term. As yet I do not know what part of the country I will be working in. This will happen when I arrive in Abuja on 10 February.

It is all team work.....



Polio still happens



Rotary's gift to children

Giving time to Polio Eradication is a commitment to the children of the world through the largest public health program ever; it is playing a role in a huge team that covers every nation and millions of people. From the field level, I truly thank all those who play the various roles in this program and want all those Rotarians who are fundraising to know how important every dollar is. Thank you.

Regards and thanks to all.
Many blessings

Jenny
STOP Team 30 (Stop Transmission of Polio)



Bill Gates shares his commitment

The incredible further donation from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation of \$255million to polio