



November 2016

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**Directors**  
**Leah Sahely, Elroy Lewis,**  
**Patricia Mourillon, Kevin Edwards**

**Club email**  
[stkittsrotary7030@gmail.com](mailto:stkittsrotary7030@gmail.com)

**Club website**  
<http://www.rotarystkitts.org>

**Facebook**  
<https://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfStKitts/>

## **St. Kitts and Nevis Hearing Mission**

The Rotary Club of St. Kitts and Nevis in collaboration with the Starkey Hearing Foundation and The Ministry of Health, hosted a Mission to provide and train others to provide comprehensive hearing healthcare.

The primary purpose of the Mission was to train local healthcare providers and some volunteers to learn and practice the three phases of the Starkey Foundation's model, thereby providing sustainable hearing care and support across the Federation.

The Mission identifies and train partners who can refer persons in need of hearing healthcare. These persons are screened and trained to provide primary ear-care services to the individuals in need of hearing aids. This process involves the taking of ear impressions and creating ear molds. The team then fits hearing devices and train patients, families, teachers and volunteers how to operate the hearing aids.

Young and old receive hope and hearing through the Starkey Foundation's mission, and this empowers them to achieve their potential. Giving a person the ability to hear has an immediate inspirational impact on the quality of life of that individual, and a positive effect on the world. Moreover, there is a great need for more hearing health care in St. Kitts and Nevis, part of a Caribbean diaspora where the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there are more than 2.6 million persons with hearing loss.

# Sugar Wheel

## St. Kitts and Nevis Hearing Mission

### Event Coordinators:

- **Julia Lis:** Development Director for the Caribbean Region
- **Derick Johnson:** Development Director for the Caribbean Region
- **Tani Austin;** Co-Founder Starkey Hearing Foundation
- **Dr. Sheryl Figliano:** Starkey Global Hearing Foundation Ambassador
- **Fortunado Figliano:** Starkey Global Hearing Foundation Ambassador
- **Patricia Mourillion:** Past President of the Rotary Club of St. Kitts and Advisor to Starkey Foundation St. Kitts
- **Neil Owen:** President of the Rotary Club of St. Kitts.
- **Dr. Retna Walwyn:** Director of Community Health Services of the Ministry of Health
- **Evelyn Henville:** Caribbean foundation for Children
- **Eulynis Browne:** Coordinator of Community Nursing of the Ministry of Health
- **Rotary Club of St. Kitts**

## About the Starkey Hearing Foundation

Starkey Hearing Foundation is a charity founded by William F. Austin which gives the gift of hearing to persons in need in the United States and around the world. Hearing loss affects more than 360 million people, including 36 million children. Many do not have access to the hearing care or devices that will improve their lives and promote understanding. The Starkey Hearing Foundation focuses on hearing health care missions, education, and recycling, as well as grants to mission-aligned organizations. The Foundation has cared for more than 1.1 million patients and provided 1.9 million hearing devices in more than 100 countries. Connect with the Starkey Hearing Foundation on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



# Sugar Wheel



## Dictionary Project

The Dictionary Project 2016 was concluded during the month of October, where after months of preparation the dictionaries were delivered to schools throughout the Federation.

The Project is undertaken by the Rotary Club of St. Kitts (RCSK) in partnership with the St. Kitts Nevis Ministry of Education (MOE), and the Christophe Harbour Foundation.

The Club distributed over 600 dictionaries to the 3rd Graders in the primary schools throughout the island of St. Kitts as well as in Nevis. Each child enrolled in the 3rd grade in public and private schools round the Federation were handed a Dictionary.

The Rotary Club of St. Kitts envisage this Dictionary Project will aid students in a very specific way as the 3rd grade is generally noted as a critical point in a child's education; it is the point at which a child progresses from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn'. In this regard the club and its partners see giving the gift of a dictionary as a very important gesture, to give each third grader an opportunity to own his or her very own Dictionary.



## Rotary and Polio – Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is PolioPlus?

In 1985, Rotary launched its PolioPlus programme, the first initiative to tackle global polio eradication through the mass vaccination of children. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.6 billion and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. In addition, Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$7.2 billion to the effort.

### 2. Why polio?

Rotary approves the first 3-H grant project after receiving a request to purchase polio vaccine for children in the Philippines. At about the same time, Rotary President Clem Renouf, inspired by the worldwide eradication of smallpox, reaches out to Rotary member and microbiologist John Sever at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, asking whether he thinks Rotary could target another disease. Sever recommends polio, and suggests that Renouf enlist the support of Dr. Albert Sabin, developer of the oral polio vaccine. Both experts play an essential role in building the polio eradication program.

### 3. What's the plus in PolioPlus?

The "plus" initially refers to the additional vaccines administered along with the polio vaccine. Today, it also reflects the fact that the infrastructure, fundraising, and advocacy methods developed for the polio eradication campaign also support efforts to fight other infectious diseases.

### 4. What's GPEI?

GPEI, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, originally composed of Rotary, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF, is created to coordinate polio eradication work. Over the years, others join the effort, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and governments throughout the world. Rotary's focus is advocacy, fundraising, volunteer recruitment and awareness-building.

# Sugar Wheel

5.

## **Which countries have had cases of polio in 2016?**

The facts are well known but worth repeating. In 1988, there were 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries. By 2015, that number had declined to 74 cases in just two remaining endemic countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Then a setback: in August 2016 polio was detected in Nigeria after two years of not detecting any wild polio cases. It was the fact that armed conflict and insecurity made it unsafe and impossible to fully immunize everyone, everywhere. As of today, 5 November 2016, there are 31 cases in the world.

## **6. Why is it taking so long to eradicate polio?**

The polio cases represented by the remaining one percent are the most difficult to prevent, due to factors including geographical isolation, poor public infrastructure, armed conflict and cultural barriers. Until polio is eradicated, all countries remain at risk of outbreaks.

## **7. How is Rotary Ensuring Success?**

Every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation up to \$35 million a year through 2018. These funds help to provide much-needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents. Governments, corporations and private individuals all play a crucial role in funding.

More than one million Rotary members have donated their time and personal resources to end polio. Every year, hundreds of Rotary members work side-by-side with health workers to vaccinate children in polio-affected countries. Rotary Members work with UNICEF and other partners to prepare and distribute mass communication tools to reach people in areas isolated by conflict, geography, or poverty. Rotary members also recruit fellow volunteers, assist with transporting the vaccine, and provide other logistical support.



# ENDPOLIONOW



## **November is Rotary Foundation month!**

Rotary's one and only charity, The Rotary Foundation, will be celebrating its centennial anniversary during this Rotary year 2016-2017. That's a century of Rotary members changing lives and improving communities all over the world. And that's definitely something worth celebrating.

Former Rotary International President Arch Klumph's idea for an endowment fund dedicated to 'Doing Good In The World' planted the seed for The Rotary Foundation in 1917. That one idea and an initial contribution of \$26.50 set in motion a powerful force for good that has transformed millions of lives around the globe over the decades.

Through our Foundation, Rotary members have supported thousands of projects to provide clean water, fight disease, promote peace, provide basic education, and grow local economies. We've also been a leader in the fight to eradicate polio worldwide. The centennial is the perfect time to share this impressive record with the world.

# Sugar Wheel

## Rotary Foundation month (cont'd)

The Rotary Club of St. Kitts has been contributing to the Rotary Foundation over the years and has also participated in its programmes through Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Group Study Exchange (GSE) programmes, Ambassadorial Scholars, Youth Study Exchange, Matching Grants, Health/Hunger and Humanity (3H) Grants, to name a few. These programmes are the lifeblood of Rotary, creating world peace and understanding through the lives touched by the programmes. Ask any past GSE team leader or any Rotarian who has visited/worked on an international project about the difference made by these programmes . . . there are many wonderful stories of saved and changed lives around the world.

Our contributions to The Rotary Foundation fund these Rotary programmes. While our Foundation is quite healthy (one of the largest Foundations in the world), there is so much more we need to do. Your annual contribution and/or a contribution to the Foundation permanent fund (through a major gift or benefactor contribution) fuels our Rotary programmes.

November is Rotary Foundation month and there is no better time for us to reflect on the great Rotary Foundation sponsored programmes we support and on how each of us can contribute to make sure these programmes continue. I encourage each of you to learn more about The Rotary Foundation and make a contribution to continue saving and changing lives. These programmes work and are a great investment for a better and safer world.

## The FOUR-WAY Test:

