

In 1985, Rotary International began raising funds in an effort to eliminate polio worldwide. Polio has not been a problem in the United States for many years, but this is not the case in many developing countries.

By partnering with the World Health Organization and other government and private groups, Rotary International has achieved a 99 percent reduction of polio worldwide.

The Grant Rotary Club will be participating in this effort and through the Purple Pinkie Project, they wish to make the Perkins County Elementary school students part of the solution.

On Wednesday, March 20, members of the Grant Rotary Club will visit the Perkins County Elementary School.

The students have been encouraged to bring \$1 or more to help with this cause. When your child puts \$1 in the Purple Pinkie Bucket, their pinkie will be painted with Gentian Violet as a symbol of one child immunized from polio. Of course, more than one finger may be painted if more than a dollar is donated!

Gentian Violet is a topical dye used by Rotary International to mark children after they have been immunized from polio. This prevents double dosage. Since it is widely used by nursing mothers and in the mouths of infants, it is very safe. Its safety has been confirmed by the health department and local pharmacists.

However, Gentian Violet is brilliantly purple and will leave a child's finger colored for a day or two. To prevent staining on things other than fingers, Rotarians will dip and immediately dry the finger with paper towels.

By partnering with Rotary, local students will become part of the solution to polio, and their purple pinkie will be their own personal reminder of one or more child saved from the polio virus. Grant Pharmacy has graciously donated the Gentian Violet for this project.