

On Oct. 20, members of the Grant Rotary Club will visit the Perkins County Elementary School to raise money for polio eradication.

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 local Grant Rotary Club has been participating in this effort from the beginning. Presently, through the Purple Pinkie Project, Perkins County Elementary students will be part of the solution.

Since \$1 is the estimated cost to immunize one child from polio, local students have been encouraged to bring \$1 or more to help with this cause. Each time a student puts \$1 in the Purple Pinkie bucket, his or her 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 \$1 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 doctors and pharmacists.

However, Gentian violet is brilliantly purple and will leave the child’s finger colored for a day or

two.

By partnering with Rotary, local students will become part of the solution to polio, and their purple pinkies will be their own personal reminder of one or more children saved from the polio virus.

The Purple Pinkie Project will be promoted within the school for several weeks leading up to Purple Pinkie Day. Principal Terry Prante expects approximately 170 students will participate.