



Millions of children in polio-endemic countries know that a freshly marked purple pinkie means freedom from the disease. Now children at Perkins County Elementary School know it too.

When members of your community make a small contribution to PolioPlus, local Rotarian volunteers mark their pinkies with the same dye used on National Immunization Days around the world.

On Wednesday, Oct. 20, the Perkins County Elementary students and staff helped to make a significant difference in the “End Polio Now” by providing dollars to help inoculate children in the last four remaining countries where polio still is a real and crippling disease.

The purple pinkie will serve as a personal symbol of helping one child become free from polio forever.

Hatch’s Super Foods also donated a dollar to each student to which resulted in raising enough money to inoculate 1,000 children, and with the matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, now 2,000 children will not suffer the ravages of polio.

The Grant Rotary Club appreciates all those who took part in making life better for those who are less fortunate.

PolioPlus, the most ambitious program in Rotary’s history, is the volunteer arm of the global partnership dedicated to eradicating polio.

For more than 20 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of this crippling disease. Today, PolioPlus and its role in the initiative are recognized worldwide as a model of public-private cooperation in pursuit of a humanitarian goal.

As the polio eradication effort closes in on the disease, the work becomes more difficult. Polio's strongholds remain in the world's poorest countries, many of which require greater levels of support to reach the goal.

Assistance from global, national, and local leaders is critical in this respect. A small but dedicated group of Rotarians is working with national governments and multinational organizations to encourage them to commit the political and financial support required to eradicate polio.

"Remember, as long as polio resides in today's world, polio could be an airplane ride away from those of us who have had the luxury of living in a polio-free nation."

