

G O D M O R N I N G !

Thursday, March 22, 2012

"Culture is Us!"



Heather Milner

*PP Rotary Club of Naples-North
Immunization Trip to India*

In February, we were fortunate to take a trip to India and participate in a Polio National Immunization Day (NID). We met up with 35 other Rotarians and friends of Rotary to make the long journey, and this is our story.....

Heather is a licensed general contractor and owns The Henning Group. She is married to Michael and they have one daughter Reese (3 yrs old).

2011-2012 Annual Sponsors

Silver Sponsors

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The "Wizdumb" Table

Our thanks to

Capital Bank and The Naples Daily News for their generous sponsorship of the All-Star Football Classic.



**We're havin' a
Blood Suckin'
on March 29th.**

March is Literacy Month

Attendance Last Meeting

Members Present:	82	80%	
Makeups:	5		
Visiting Rotarians:	3	Winter Pigeons:	7
Guests of Members:	5	Student Guests:	2

Did you make up?



Guest Speaker

Next Week: David Shindle, Senior Biologist, Environmental Science Division, Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Last Meeting: Cindy Darland, Executive Director, First Tee of Naples/Collier

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Member	Birthday	Age
Blanca DiBenedetto	March 25	55
Mark Miller	March 25	64
Dick Myers	March 25	84

Member	Wedding Anv.	Years
Bob Belcastro	March 27	30
Charlie Lewis	March 26	16
Don York	March 22	26

Member	Club Anv.	Years
Jon Greenfield	March 25	2
Bob Lashenka	March 25	2
Shelley Lund	March 25	2
Dick Myers	March 26	31
John Stanley	March 26	31

Distinguished Rotarians

Rotarian	Honored
Doug Baird	Sept. 30, 2010
Heather Milner	Apr. 23, 2009
Lois Kluberdanz	Jun. 5, 2008

Rotarian of the Year 2012

Alex Garland, Jr.



**100% Paul Harris Fellows
or Sustaining Members**



India is no longer polio endemic

Editors Note:

This story was updated to include reference to the significant role played at the Polio Summit 2012 by Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo, who chaired the event.

The World Health Organization has officially removed India from the list of polio-endemic countries. Ghulam Nabi Azad, India's minister of Health and Family Welfare, made the announcement at the Polio Summit 2012 in New Delhi on 25 February. Azad said that he had been informed of WHO's action by its director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan.

"It is a matter of satisfaction that we have completed one year without any single new case of polio being reported from anywhere in the country," said Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the summit, which was organized by the government of India and Rotary International. "This gives us hope that we can finally eradicate polio not only from India but from the face of the entire mother earth. The success of our efforts shows that teamwork pays."

India's last reported case was a two-year-old girl in West Bengal State on 13 January 2011. Before polio eradication can be certified in India, it must go two more years without another case of the disease. Polio remains endemic in only three countries: Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

Bivalent oral vaccine

Until 2009, India accounted for nearly half the number of the world's polio cases. A chief factor in the country's success has been the widespread use of the bivalent oral polio vaccine, which is effective against both remaining types of the poliovirus. Another has been rigorous monitoring, which has helped reduce the number of children missed by health workers during National Immunization Days to less than 1 percent, according to WHO.

Rotary International has played a major role in helping to stop the transmission of polio in India. Rotary has been a spearheading partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988, along with WHO, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is also a key supporter of the initiative.

(con't at right)



The All India End Polio Now Road Show, organized by District 3201, inspired support for polio eradication in India, Nepal, and Bhutan in late 2011 and early 2012.

Upcoming Rotary Events

March 24th - Grapes & Apes
Rotary Club of Naples at the Naples Zoo

March 29th - Meet & Greet the GSE Team
South Street (Pine Ridge Road at Goodlette)



Sporting their signature yellow vests and caps, the nearly 119,000 Rotarians in India have helped administer vaccine to children, organize free health camps and polio awareness rallies, and distribute banners, caps, comic books, and other items.

Global support from Rotarians

"With the support of their Rotary brothers and sisters around the world, Indian Rotarians have worked diligently month after month, year after year, to help organize and carry out the National Immunization Days that reach millions of children with the oral polio vaccine," says RI President Kalyan Banerjee, of the Rotary Club of Vapi, Gujarat. "As an Indian, I am immensely proud of what Rotary has accomplished. However, we know this is not the end of our work. Rotary and our partners must continue to immunize children in India and in other countries until the goal of a polio-free world is finally achieved."

"India is tantalizingly close to eradicating polio," says Past RI President Rajendra K. Saboo, who chaired the Polio Summit. "Rotary International has committed to be the torchbearer until India and the world become polio-free."

Robert S. Scott, chair of Rotary's International PolioPlus Committee, calls India's achievement "a significant step towards a polio-free world – an example as to what can be accomplished no matter what problems need to be overcome. Rotarians of India are and should be proud of the key efforts they have made at all levels, without which the world would not be marking this milestone."

Deepak Kapur, chair of the India PolioPlus Committee, also credits the Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for its commitment to ending polio. To date, the Indian government has spent more than US\$1.2 billion on domestic polio eradication activities. "We are fortunate that our government is our biggest advocate in this effort," Kapur says.