

News Release

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Somalia is once again Polio Free

OVERLAND PARK, Kan-- The Overland Park Rotary Club is proud to announce that the country of Somalia is once again free from polio.

Rotary International along with the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and WHO (World Health Organization) have tried for over two decades to rid the world of Polio. In that time, the incidence of Polio has been reduced over 99% and the number of infected countries has been reduced from over 125 to less than a handful.

Somalia was declared polio free in 2002 but was re-infected in 2005 by a strain from Nigeria. War-torn Nigeria is still one of the countries where polio has yet to be eradicated.

At a local level, the Overland Park Rotary Club continues to ensure that our community remains polio free by financially supporting the Johnson County Health Department. The Club has a speaker at every weekly meeting and a donation is made in that person's name to provide polio shots to children in the County who otherwise would not be able to afford the vaccination.

The Overland Park Rotary Club also supports the Rotary International mission of worldwide polio eradication through annual giving to the Polio Plus program.

Rotary International is the largest and oldest service organization. Rotary was established 100 years ago and is providing monetary and hands-on service to people all over the world. The Overland Park Rotary Club currently has over 170 active members and meets every Monday at 11:30am at the Overland Park Marriott.