



# *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS,** Rotary is a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities across the globe; and

**WHEREAS,** the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, inspires members to provide humanitarian service, follow high ethical standards, and promote goodwill and peace in the world; and

**WHEREAS,** Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

**WHEREAS,** polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** to date, Rotary has contributed more than US\$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries; and

**WHEREAS,** Rotary is working to raise an additional \$50 million per year, which would be leveraged for maximum impact by an additional \$100 million annually from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

**WHEREAS,** these efforts are providing much-needed operational support, medical staff, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

**WHEREAS,** in addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort; and

**WHEREAS,** there are over 1.2 million Rotary members in more than 35,000 clubs throughout the world that sponsor service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Walker E. Reid III, Mayor of the City of Gastonia and the City Council of the City of Gastonia, proclaim **October 24, 2020** as **World Polio Day** in Gastonia, North Carolina and encourage all citizens to join me and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Gastonia to be affixed, this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty.

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Walker E. Reid III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk