



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million 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 \$2.9 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting more than 3 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 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 \$11 billion to the effort; and

WHEREAS, continued political and financial commitment is essential to overcome the final hurdles, strengthen health systems, and ensure that no child anywhere suffers from polio ever again; and

WHEREAS, World Polio Day, observed on October 24, serves as a moment to honor the progress made, recognize the dedication of health workers and volunteers, and renew our collective resolve to finish the job.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard Franks, Mayor, and the City Council of the City of Gastonia hereby proclaim **October 24, 2025** as

WORLD POLIO DAY

and encourage all citizens to recognize the extraordinary efforts that have led to countless lives being saved from polio and to join the fight with Rotary International 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 7th day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five.

Richard Franks, Mayor

ATTEST:

Suzanne J. Gibbs, City Clerk