



- 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, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim October 24, 2020 as

WORLD POLIO DAY

in Gaston County and encourage all citizens to join me and Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

Tracy L. Philbeck, Chairman

Chad Brown

Bob Hovis

Jack B. Brown, Vice-Chairman

Tom Keigher

Allen R. Fraley

Ronald E. Worley