

CITY OF CALISTOGA PROCLAMATION

**World Polio Day
October 24, 2010**

***WHEREAS**, World Polio Day, October 24, 2010, is a positive initiative to create awareness and educate the citizens of the City of Calistoga about the vital importance to eradicate polio worldwide. Rotary brings 105 years of history to this initiative. Its members are business, professional and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Calistoga Rotary, is one of 32,000 Rotary clubs located in more than 200 countries and geographical areas, that initiate service projects to address today's challenges, including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and environmental concerns.*

***WHEREAS**, when Rotary began its mission to eradicate polio more than 350,000 children were stricken with polio every year, and nearly 1,000 people were affected by the crippling disease every day. Since then, polio cases have been reduced by 99 percent to fewer than 1,700 cases in 2009. Today only four countries – Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan - remain polio-endemic. Due to the efforts of Rotary and its partners, the world is on the threshold of ending polio forever – making it only the second disease after smallpox to be eradicated.*

***WHEREAS**, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded \$355 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio; \$200 million is a challenge grant to Rotary, and is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest received by Rotary in its 105-year history. These funds will provide critical support to polio eradication activities that is spearheaded by RI and its partners, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF. Rotary will distribute the funds through grants to WHO and UNICEF.*

***WHEREAS**, polio eradication has been Rotary's top priority since 1985, with more than \$1.2 billion contributed to the effort. At the Rotary District Conference in San Diego, California in February 2009, Bill Gates praised Rotary for providing the volunteers, advocates, and donors who have helped bring about a 99 percent decline in the number of polio cases. "The world would not be where it is without Rotary, and it won't get where it needs to go without Rotary," Gates said. Rotary is now nearing the three-quarter mark – having raised \$140 million of the \$200 million challenge.*

***WHEREAS**, the Calistoga Rotary initiative is one more community effort to invite the citizens of the City of Calistoga to support Rotary's goal. The world stands firmly on the threshold of victory thanks to the achievements of the last 25 years. A polio-free world will be Rotary's ultimate gift to children everywhere. World Polio Day, October 24th is one small step in helping Rotary achieve its goal.*

***NOW THEREFORE**, on behalf of the City Council and citizens of the City of Calistoga, I, Mayor Jack Gingles, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2010, as World Polio Day.*

Signed and sealed, this fifth day of October, in the year Two Thousand and Ten.

JACK GINGLES, Mayor