

# The State of Maryland



## Proclamation

From the Governor of the State of Maryland

WORLD POLIO DAY  
OCTOBER 24, 2011

**WHEREAS,** Rotary International, founded on February 23, 1905 in Chicago, Illinois USA, is the world's first and one of the largest non-profit service organizations; and

**WHEREAS,** There are over 1.2 million Rotary club members comprised of professional and business leaders in over 33,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographic area. The Rotary motto "Service Above Self" inspires members to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and promote good will and peace in the world; and

**WHEREAS,** Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and spearheaded the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

**WHEREAS,** Polio cases have dropped by 99 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

**WHEREAS,** To date, Rotary has contributed more than one billion dollars and countless volunteer hours to the protection of more than two billion children in 122 countries. Rotary is currently working to raise an additional \$200 million toward a \$344 million challenge grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

**WHEREAS,** These efforts are providing much needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment and educational materials for health workers and parents. In addition, the Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute \$8 billion to the effort.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARTIN O'MALLEY, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2011 as WORLD POLIO DAY in Maryland, and do encourage all citizens to join with Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.**

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland,  
this 24th day of October  
Two Thousand and eleven

  
Governor

  
Lt. Governor

  
Secretary of State

