



**WORLD'S  
LARGEST  
POLIO WALK**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Saturday, October 24, 2026  
Cedar Rapids***

## **Cedar Rapids Metro Rotary Clubs to Participate in World's Largest Polio Walk on World Polio Day**

**CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA - September 09, 2026** – On **October 24, World Polio Day**, local Rotarians and Rotarians from around the world will be celebrating a the World's Largest Polio Walk, a coordinated effort to raise awareness and support the global fight to end polio.

As part of this initiative, 36,620 Rotarians and 964 Rotaract members across 11 states and 2 countries are expected to participate by organizing and joining walks in their local communities.

**Saturday, October 24, WORLD POLIO DAY WALK, 10:00 a.m. New Bo City Market** Rotarians, families, friends, and community members will walk through The District (New Bo and Czech Village) in support of Rotary's dedication to eradicate polio.

For more than 35 years, Rotary International has been a leader in the global effort to eradicate polio. Since Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985, polio cases have decreased by more than 99%. Did you know Rotary has helped to immunize more than 3 billion children? In fact, more than 20 million people are walking or alive today because of the polio eradication efforts of Rotary and our partners. Only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan, have yet to stop the transmission of the wild poliovirus, down from 125.

Marion-East Cedar Rapids Rotary, Cedar Rapids Rotary (Downtown), Linn County Rotary, Cedar Rapids Daybreak, Metro North Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids Sunrise, Cedar Rapids Rotary West, and Prairie Gateway host hundreds of members weekly for community gatherings. Participants for the walk are encouraged to wear Rotary or End Polio Now gear, bring friends and family, and share their experience on social media to help amplify the message.

Metro Rotaries, over the years, have been a benefit directly to our community with local projects funded by Rotarians supporting the projects with their time, energy and talents.

- Gearing Up for Kids Playgrounds (1997-2008)
- Cedar Lake Rotary Centennial Pavilions (2005)
- Mobile Band Shell for Cedar Rapids Community Band (2016)
- Prospect Meadows Baseball /Softball Complex (2018)
- Shakespeare Garden (2024)
- Busse Library Glow in the Dark Rotary Trail (2026)

### **About Rotary**

Rotary International brings together a global network of community leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges. We connect **1.2 million members across more than 45,000 Rotary clubs worldwide**. Their service improves lives both locally and internationally—from helping those in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world.

Learn more at **Rotary.org** and **endpolio.org**.