



BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Rockdale County's WORLD POLIO DAY is a positive initiative to create awareness and educate the citizens of Conyers and Rockdale County about the vital importance of eradicating Polio worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Rotary brings 106 years of history to this initiative with its members being business, professional and community leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, and help build goodwill and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Rockdale County is one of 34,118 Rotary Clubs located in more than 200 countries and geographical areas that initiates service projects to address today's challenges, including peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development; and

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% to 380 total cases worldwide as of September 13, 2011. 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; and

WHEREAS, The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded US\$355 million to Rotary International in the global effort to eradicate polio with \$200 million of that total being a challenge grant to Rotary. This is one of the largest challenge grants ever given by the Gates Foundation and the largest received by Rotary in its 106-year history. These funds will provide critical support to polio eradication activities that are spearheaded by Rotary International 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; and

WHEREAS, Polio eradication has been Rotary's top health and humanitarian priority since 1985, with more than \$1.2 billion contributed to the effort. At the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, California in January 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 its fundraising goal with \$186.9 million raised towards the \$200 million challenge as of September 19, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Rotary Club of Rockdale County's initiative is one more community effort to invite the citizens of Rockdale County to support Rotary's goal. The world stands firmly on the threshold of victory thanks to the achievements of the last 26 years. A polio-free world will be Rotary's ultimate gift to children everywhere, and World Polio Day, October 24th, is one small step in helping Rotary achieve its goal.

THEREFORE, We, the Board of Commissioners of Rockdale County, do hereby proclaim October 24, 2011 as

WORLD POLIO DAY

in Rockdale County, Georgia, and herewith set our hands and caused the official seal of Rockdale County to be affixed this 18th day of October, 2011



Richard A. Oden, Chairman & CEO

Oz Nesbitt, Sr., Post I Commissioner

Timce Warren, Post III Commissioner