Our Mission

PSA is a Rotarian Action Group dedicated to the humanitarian assistance of polio survivors. Our Mission is to serve as a resource through education, advocacy, networking and projects with Rotary clubs to enhance the lives and independence of polio survivors.

We serve as the living legacy of the worldwide PolioPlus program to eradicate polio.

PSA was founded in 2003 as a Rotarian Fellowship whose members were individuals and groups with a common interest in polio survivors; health issues such as postpolio syndrome; polio support groups; related organizations and institutions. In 2005, the Rotary International Board of Directors recognized the value of these Fellowships and their potential for assisting RI in implementing humanitarian programs throughout the world, and formed Rotary Action Groups.

PSA Officers and Directors

CEO - Ann Lee Hussey, PDG (D7780) South Berwick ME (annlee@rotarypoliosurvivors.org)
Chairman - Gretchen Bren (D5650) Omaha NE (webmaster@rotarypoliosurvivors.org)
Secretary - Al Bonney, PDG (D6290) Traverse City, MI
Treasurer - Patricia Meehan PDG (D7280) Greenville, PA
Director - Manjit Sawhney, PDG (D3010) Delhi, India
Director - Ashok Mirchandani (D9100) Cotonou, Republique du Benin, West Africa
Director - Saliu Ahmed, PDG (D9125) Kaduna, Nigeria
Senior Advisor - Ray Klinginsmith (D6040), Kirksville, MO USA
Advisor - Joan Headley, Director Post-Polio Health Intl., St. Louis MO USA

Founder - Ray Taylor, PDG (D7690) (1924-2016) Pinehurst/So. Pines NC USA

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PSA Programs & Objectives

- Support in any way possible, the Rotary PolioPlus program to eradicate polio throughout the world
- Initiate Community Based Rehabilitation Centers (CBR) where feasible to identify and provide restorative care for polio survivors
- To assure that the history and heritage of the personal contribution by Rotarians to the eradication of polio is understood by the public and is properly displayed, promoted and maintained
- To engage Rotarians in a worldwide project to collect the personal stories of polio as it affected individuals and communities
- To form associations with individuals, organizations and institutions already engaged in assisting polio survivors

PSA Projects & Partnerships

Wheels of Hope
As a result of two matching grants in 2010 initiated by PSA which equipped and improved productivity in a wheelchair production facility in Jos, Nigeria, PSA delivered 1000 wheelchairs to polio survivors. With the grant funds depleted, the Rotary Club of Traverse City, Michigan, USA, in conjunction with PSA, conceived and created a foundation to produce a continuing stream of revenue for the workshop in Jos. This foundation, called Wheels of Hope, is partnering with four Rotary clubs (as they did for the matching grant) in Jos to manage a sustaining stream of revenue for the purposes of continuing to support the large polio survivor population in the Northern provinces of Nigeria.

Community Based Rehabilitation Centers
The Polio Survivors Rotarian Action Group supports the establishment of Community Based Rehabilitation Centers in conjunction with vocational training as a follow-up to our polio eradication efforts.

More than a billion people in the world today experience disability. These people generally have poorer health, lower education achievements, fewer economic opportunities and higher rates of poverty. This is largely due to the barriers they face in their everyday lives, rather than their disability. Disability is not only a public health issue, but also a human rights and development issue.

Community-based rehabilitation (CBR) was initiated by the World Health Organization in an effort to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities and their families; meet their basic needs; and ensure their inclusion and participation. While initially a strategy to increase access to rehabilitation services in resource-constrained settings, CBR is now a multi-sectoral approach working to improve the equalization of opportunities and social inclusion of people with disabilities while combating the perpetual cycle of poverty and disability. CBR is implemented through the combined efforts of people with disabilities, their families and communities, and relevant government and non-government health, education, vocational, social and other services.