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PRESS ADVISORY

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GREECE ROTARY SKIPS A MEAL FOR POLIO

... (*Greece, NY*) ... The Greece Rotary Club is joining with Rotary clubs throughout the nation to ***Skip a Meal*** to eradicate polio worldwide. The Skip A Meal activity is part of Rotary International's celebration of World Polio Day, Oct. 24, 2009.

Rotary International (RI) adopted its Polio Plus program in 1985, with the intention of eradicating polio throughout the world. Since then, the disease has been wiped out of 99.9% of the world's population. Currently, the disease is endemic in only four nations: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.

"The concept is a simple one, instead of buying a meal, we're putting the money towards eradicating polio worldwide," said Greece Rotary President Bill Gormont. "The cost to vaccinate a child against polio is 11 cents and we are hoping to raise \$1,000 in one afternoon."

The Greece Rotary club and other clubs throughout the world have consistently contributed to RI's Polio Plus Program. After the adoption of Polio Plus, the Who Health Organization, the Centers for Disease Control and nations throughout the world have signed on as partners to see polio wiped off the face of the earth. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have made two separate gifts of \$100 million to help Rotary International in this effort.

"Polio Plus is an exciting opportunity to provide the gift of a polio free world," said Gormont. "On behalf of Rotarians throughout the world, I can say we are proud to be a part of this endeavor."

The Greece Rotary Club meets Wednesdays at Ridgmont Country Club in Greece from 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. For more information, please visit www.greecerotary.org.

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