

\* Thursday Oct 19 lunchtime \*  
at local elementary schools



PURPLE

PINKIE

POLIO PLUS

PROJECT

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**The Rotary Club of Los Alamos is dedicated to ending polio in our lifetimes. Rotary, along with our partners, has reduced polio cases by 99.9% worldwide since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979, but we need your help. We are excited about raising funds for Rotary International’s Polio Plus program to complete this vital mission because we are so close.**

**People of a certain age will still remember the fear caused by the polio epidemics of the early 1950s, when this highly infectious viral disease sickened and paralyzed. But many young Americans won't know much, if anything, about polio. In 1985, polio paralyzed more than 1000 children worldwide EVERY day.**

**However, there are only 3 countries (Pakistan, Afghanistan & Nigeria) that have never stopped polio transmission but conflict, political instability, hard-to-reach populations, and poor infrastructure continue to pose challenges to eradicating the disease. We must continue our efforts in the endemic countries, because from them polio can re-emerge to infect children in places where it had been stopped, as we saw last year in Syria and the Horn of Africa.**

**The Purple Pinkie Project helps raise funds to protect children from polio. Polio has no cure, so prevention is the most effective means to combat it. Young children who receive the immunization become permanently immune to the disease. We plan to do this project in our elementary schools.**

**Millions and millions of children and their parents in countries where polio still exists know that a freshly painted purple pinkie means the child is protected from polio. Throughout the world, each time a Rotary International volunteer gives the polio vaccine to a child in the village, the child’s pinkie is colored purple with GENTIAN VIOLET INK. Their purple pinkie indicates they have been immunized against polio, and prevents another volunteer from giving a double dose of the precious vaccine.**

**Building upon this symbolism, when our local school children make a \$1.00 contribution during Purple Pinkie Project day, our Rotarians will paint their pinkies with the same Gentian Violet Ink used around the world on a National Immunization Day. Gentian Violet is used in the mouths of babies to treat “thrush”, so it is safe. It stains the pinkie for one day, and the purple stays on the cuticle for around 5 days.**

**On Thursday, October 19, 2017, members of the Rotary Club of Los Alamos will visit your child’s school at lunchtime. Since \$1.00 is the approximate cost to immunize two children against polio, the students are encouraged to bring \$1.00 or more to help with this cause. Some students may want to bring \$5 for 5 fingers, or \$10 for both hands. On Purple Pinkie Project Day, for every student that brings \$1, we give them a purple pinkie using the same Gentian Violet Ink used by Polio Plus volunteers around the world.**

**Their purple pinkie is their “Polio Hero” badge. Please help them support this important cause.**

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# PURPLE PINKIE DAY!



A district wide fundraiser for



Rotary :

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## ***PARENT PERMISSION: PURPLE PINKIE PROJECT***

In 1985, Rotary International began raising funds in an effort to eliminate Polio worldwide. Polio has not been a problem in the United States for many years, but this is not the case in many developing countries. By partnering with the World Health Organization and other government and private groups, Rotary International has achieved a 99% reduction of Polio worldwide. Our local Rotary Club of Los Alamos has been participating in this effort from the beginning. Presently, through the Purple Pinkie Project, we wish for all students in the Los Alamos Public Schools district to participate in this important immunization project.

On Thursday, October 19, 2017, members of the Rotary Club of Los Alamos will visit your child's school at lunchtime. Since \$1.00 is the approximate cost to immunize two children from polio, the students have been asked to bring \$1.00 or more to help with this cause. When your child puts \$1.00 in the Purple Pinkie Bucket, we will paint his pinkie with Gentian Violet as a symbol of children immunized from Polio. Of course, more than one finger may be painted if more than \$1.00 is donated!

Gentian Violet is a topical dye used by Rotary International to mark children after they have been immunized from Polio. This prevents double dosage. Since it is widely used by nursing mothers and in the mouths of infants, it is very safe. Its safety has been confirmed by our Health Department and local pharmacists. However, Gentian Violet is brilliantly purple and will leave your child's finger colored for a day or two. To prevent staining on things other than fingers, we will dip and immediately dry the finger with paper towels.

If you wish for your child to participate in this project, please sign below.

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Parent or Guardian

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Print Student's Name



Rotary Club of Los Alamos

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