

2008 Campaign Focus Announced

Post-Polio Health International (PHI) challenges individuals and groups from around the world to make the October 12-18, 2008, **WE'RE STILL HERE!** campaign even more visible than the successful 2007 campaign. The goal is to alert health professionals, policy-makers, and the general public to the fact that polio survivors are active individuals within their communities with successes to tell, and for many, unmet needs.

**WE'RE
STILL
HERE!**

October 12-18, 2008
www.post-polio.org

Focus for 2008

PHI is collaborating with Polio Survivors and Associates (PSA), a Rotarian Action Group, in asking polio survivors and post-polio support organizations to contact the local Rotary Club with an offer to speak during WE'RE STILL HERE! week.

"Speaking to Rotary Clubs is a natural," says Joan L. Headley, Executive Director of PHI. "Rotary International's commitment to eradicating the poliovirus from the world is unyielding. PHI and the extensive post-polio network carry on from there, assisting those for whom the vaccine was too late."

Because of the success of the eradication effort, the total number of survivors worldwide has dropped

considerably. The exact number is unknown, but polio survivors throughout the world are in need of programs that will provide rehabilitation and re-rehabilitation, which is the key to participating in society.

Ann Lee Hussey, Chairperson of PSA, notes, "As Rotarians, who are also polio survivors, we know personally the significant difference rehabilitation made in our lives and how it contributed to our success in life. Our specific goal is to ensure younger polio survivors have the same opportunity." (www.rotariopoliosurvivors.com)

Focusing on PHI's mission, Headley advises, "We want to encourage Rotary's eradication effort and at the same time encourage them to remember on behalf of those among the world's survivors who are in need of rehabilitation – WE'RE STILL HERE!"

Activities Announced

PHI challenged groups to be creative in designing activities for this year's campaign; the following groups have responded to date.

Manuscript for Post-Polio Players – The brainchild of Vera Moore, Mobile Area Post-Polio Support Group, this fast-moving script of polio survivors chatting before their support group meeting raises post-polio issues in a personal way. The short script, which can be modified to fit any area's history, is easy and fun for groups to produce. Book the production for Rotary meetings, church and community action groups, school assemblies, social interest groups. Schedule a Q&A session after the skit. The script, needing minimal props, set and characters, can be downloaded from the WE'RE STILL HERE! section of www.post-polio.org.

Virtual Workshop – The Polio Society, Washington, DC, is developing a virtual seminar/support group to be offered during the week of October 12-18, 2008. Polio survivors and their loved ones and caregivers will be able to register for this free program by mail or through the Polio

Society website. The only cost will be a long-distance phone call to the telephone bridge line. Contact the Polio Society online (www.poliosociety.org) or by phone (301-897-8180) for additional details.

Locating local polio survivors – The John P. Murtha Neuroscience and Pain Institute (JPMNPI) and the Rotary Clubs of District 7330 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, are collaborating to locate and assist area polio survivors. Ideas include a public service announcement highlighting polio history, Rotary's involvement in polio eradication and rehabilitation, and the services at JPMNPI; developing a grant to fund continuing education for Emergency Medical Services Personnel; and a "Post-Polio Walk."

WE'RE STILL HERE! Home Base – Post-Polio Health International's website (www.post-polio.org) is home base for facts, ideas and latest updates on the WE'RE STILL HERE! campaign and will have links to all participating groups.

As plans develop, send them to director@post-polio.org to be added to the WE'RE STILL HERE! section of www.post-polio.org. ▲