

MORGAN HILL TIMES

Rotary pledges support for polio effort

Local club joins others to raise \$60 million

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Polio once incited as much fear and pain in Morgan Hill as it did everywhere else.

In that era, 25 years ago, Dr. Robert A. Moulthrop joined Rotary Club of Morgan Hill and became a part of the Rotary goal to erase polio from the planet. At that time, polio crippled 350,000 victims each year. Today, as a result of Rotary's \$1.2 billion contributions and advocacy, polio has dropped 99% worldwide. Now Moulthrop, newly



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Calling attention to Rotary International's goal of eradicating polio from the planet, this new billboard sits near the northern entrance to Morgan Hill on Monterey Blvd. Dr. Robert Moulthrop, newly elected president of Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, scaled the billboard to show support.

elected president of the local club, is asking the community to help finish the job. The opportunity is a \$350 million challenge

grant, the largest ever offered by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. To get the money, Rotary clubs in 200 countries must

raise \$200 million to match the offer, and still have \$60 million to go.

Last week Emmanuel Nwankpa of Nigeria addressed the local Club about the challenges in his country, which along with India, Pakistan and Afghanistan remain the last four countries that still have polio. "We almost won, and then it was back," said Nwankpa.

"There are now only 1,700 cases per year, but flare ups persist and the planet is not safe until we reach zero," said Moulthrop. "Anyone who would like to help may donate online at www.rotary.org/endpolio or call me at (408)778-3384.