OCTOBER, 2024

END-POLIO KITE FESTIVAL

ROTARY FELLOWSHIP OF KITES END-POLIO KITE FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOP EVENTS SUMMARY AND REPORT

Rotary
Addis Ababa Central Mella, Addis Ababa Entoto, Addis Ababa West, Satellite Club Of Selam

Rotary
Ballard, Lake Union Neighorhood, University District Of Seattle, West Seattle

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RFOK Vice Presidentr

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ABOUT END-POLIO KITE FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOP

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever. The Rotary Fellowship of Kites (RFOK), in partnership with different Rotary and Rotaract clubs, celebrated International Polio Day by making and flying Kites in Ethiopia.

WORLD POLIO DAY

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, Rotary has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. RFOK designed a project where polio survivors in Ethiopia can have fun and engage with the community using kites. The premise for the project is mobility of polio survivors will not hold them back from fun.

As such, RFOK, in collaboration with Rotary and Rotaract clubs, visited the Cheshire Homes Ethiopia village to celebrate World Polio Day with the children and teach them how to build Kites.

03
KITE FESTIVAL ORIENTATION AND TEAM BUILDING

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA SATURDAY, OCT 18, 2025

The focus of this orientation session was to introduce the festival to volunteers and create teams. Using an event prepared by the Rotaract club of Wodiyamado, participants engaged in a scavenger hunt to build team spirit while having fun. There were 10 teams of 2 people, and they were tasked with both physical and mental puzzles to solve as a team. It was engaging and fun. After the event concluded, a brief introduction about the Kite festival was given by Rotarian Henok Alemayehu, and kites were introduced to the volunteers.

We then went on to have lunch as a team, which gave participants a chance to get to know each other well.

Attendees:

1. Kirubel Ayalew
2. Leulseged Eyasu
3. Dagmawi Mekonnen
4. Lello Girma
5. Hilina Fikreyohannes
6. Nardos Shimeles
7. Firew Dejene
8. Tensaey Solomon
9. Eleni Dires
10. Siham Tesfaye
11. Nuhamin Meseret
12. Christian Kiflu
13. Barnabas Meles
14. Yohannes Tefera
15. Wondwosen Firew
16. Sisay Aregu
17. Efrata Ashenafi
18. Fasika Mesfin
19. Nardos Anteneh
20. Habib Mustefa



04
KITE MAKING AND TESTING WORKSHOP

CHESHIRE HOMES ETHIOPIA FRIDAY, OCT 24, 2025



We went to Cheshire Homes Ethiopia to visit Polio patients and make kites with them. The day started early, and volunteers were called to assemble at Piassa, Addis Ababa. Two buses were prepared for the visit, and lunch and refreshments were also included.

The road trip was short, but the energy to meet the children was really exciting. When we got to Cheshire Homes, the staff welcomed us and gave us a tour of their compound. We then divided amongst ourselves into two teams and introduced ourselves to the children. Lunch(Traditional Ethiopian Agelgil) was served, and everyone was fed to keep the energy high.

We then had a small orientation from our design head, Kassahun, on how to make structured kites using bamboo, strings, and paper.

There were 3 stations where we learned and mentored the children on how to make kites.

1. Bamboo structure assembly
2. String fastening and glue station
3. Attaching paper and decoration

We then went outdoors to test the kites, and the children and volunteers all had fun while doing so.

We finalized the visit with some fun activities such as kite testing, swing, and football. We then went back to Addis Ababa and dropped off volunteers at Piassa.

05
END-POLIO KITE FESTIVAL

MENNA ABICHU PARK, SHEGER CITY SUNDAY OCT, 26 2025

Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than $10 billion to the effort.

Rotary Fellowship of Kites in partnership with Rotary and Rotaract clubs celebrated World Polio Day vibrantly in the Hill tops of Sheger City, Ethiopia. The day was full of excitement and fun for participants as well as organizers. RFOK invited polio survivors from Cheshire homes Ethiopia to the hill tops of Sheger city. The survivors were provided with transportation from and to there home at Holleta, they were assigned a volunteer that would assist them fly the kites. Lunch and refreshments were also provided to them and the stuff that brought them. We are proud to serve and have a joyful morning with them as they are the embodiment of survival and strength.

06
END-POLIO KITE FESTIVAL

MENNA ABICHU PARK, SHEGER CITY SUNDAY OCT, 26 2025

The day started early for organisers and volunteers, buses Located at Megenagna and Mexico filled up by 7 AM. More than 20 volunteers were present at the venue -Menna Abichu park- and immediately divided amongst their respective teams.

Team 1: Was tasked with tent preparation and placement of vendors. RFOK used this opportunity to invite different Rotary affiliated partners such as Rotaract clubs, Interact clubs, Ethiopia reads, EJ Sera and a musical Band. After proper tent placement and logistics appropriation vendors were open to participants. They used this opportunity to promote projects and initiatives they are working on, fundraised for projects by selling refreshments, gave participants assistance on demand.

Team 2: Was tasked with Kite sorting, assisting participants with flying, collecting kites after flight. The wind was good at times, using this opportunity volunteers assisted participants to fly kites and have fun. Most people were new to flying kites which made them excited and boosted the spirits of volunteers. Most of all survivors were playing and having fun which made the experience worth every moment.

Team 3: Managed Kids corner, sponsor corners, and brought lunch for volunteers and staff.
Powered by Ethiopia Reads the kids corner was vibrant with book lovers and story time for kids taking a break from running and flying kites, complemented by refreshing drinks made by interactors the experience kids had was visible on their happy faces. Our Beverage sponsor -BGI- Brought tents and gave participants a cold malt drink which made everyone cooler. At mid day the sun was bright and volunteers brought lunch to power everyone to have better strength and fly kites at noon. Traditional Coffee ceremony was the center where everyone gathered and took a break from the sun.

07
END-POLIO KITE FESTIVAL

MENNA ABICHU PARK, SHEGER CITY SUNDAY OCT, 26 2025

After a well deserved rest the Cheshire Ethiopia participants went back home with an unforgettable memories and every rotarian and protractor had the chance to talk with the survivors.

At noon the shade from the forest acted as a majestic background for the band where music was played. Everyone went back for a second round flying session, hearing the music and a cold malt rejuvenated participant's energy. People from different part of the city and country participated in this event.

At 6 PM, the event was officially over, and volunteers started to take down tents and, most importantly, clean up the venue. After an hour of teamwork work everything was done and the buses were ready to go back to the city. All volunteers were dropped off at suitable spots to their liking.
Overall all the event had shown that disability can't hinder people from having fun and socializing. If we come together, we can End Polio once and for all. Everyone had an understanding of how close we are to achieving this milestone, thanks to the awareness raised at the event. It was also broadcast by the Ethiopian National TV station, helping the message reach everyone.

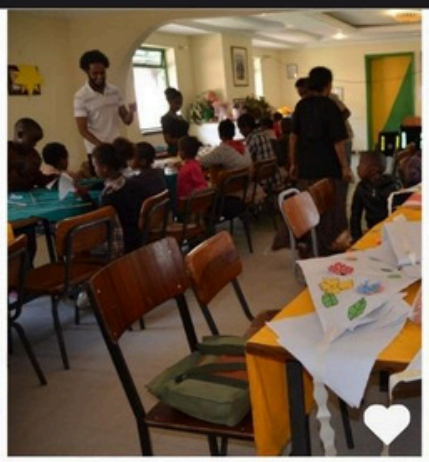
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END-POLIO KITE FESTIVAL

MENNA ABICHU PARK, SHEGER CITY SUNDAY OCT, 26 2025

Heartfelt gratitude to everyone who lifted the EndPolio Kite Festival into a soaring symbol of hope—our dedicated teams from Rotary Fellowship of Kites (RFOK), the National Polio Plus Committee, Cheshire Disability and Development Organization, Rotaract Ethiopia, Rotary Club Of Sheger,Ethiopia Reads, Timret Lehiwot Ethiopia, the Rotary Ethiopia Peace Center, and the Shaggar City Administration. A special and profound appreciation goes to the Rotary Club of New Westminster for their kind funding and unwavering belief in this vision. To all Rotarians, Rotaractors, volunteers, peace partners, and creative youth who filled the sky with color, courage, and compassion—thank you for making every kite a message of unity and carrying forward our collective dream of a polio-free Ethiopia. Your energy made the wind itself dance with purpose!

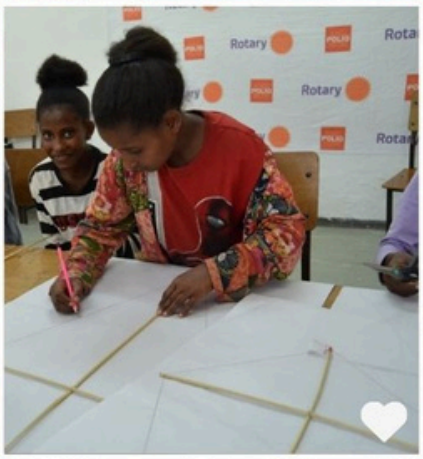
Kite Making and Testing Workshop

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