

KAYSERİ ROTARY CLUB

September 27, 2025 — The Kayseri Rotary Club marked an exciting milestone this week as seven new members joined its ranks, continuing its dynamic growth under the Rotary year's theme, "Unite for Good." With these additions, the club has now welcomed a total of nine new members since the start of the current Rotary year.

Club President Orhan Apaydın emphasized the value of this expansion, stating, "Every new member is a source of inspiration, love, and hope for our club. As our Rotary family grows, we gain greater strength to make a meaningful difference in our community."

Apaydın also noted that the growing membership brings more than just numbers—it introduces new perspectives, diverse experiences, and renewed enthusiasm, all of which strengthen the club's mission and impact.

With its expanding membership and revitalized energy, the Kayseri Rotary Club looks forward to launching more impactful projects and creating greater opportunities to serve society.



POLIO IN PAKISTAN

When the Global Polio Eradication Initiative began in 1988, polio was paralyzing more than 350,000 children every year across 125 countries. Thanks to the tireless work of health workers, governments, and partners like Rotary, polio is now on the verge of becoming only the second disease in human history to be eradicated. Today, wild poliovirus remains endemic in just two countries—Pakistan and Afghanistan.

In 2014, a young Rotaractor from Romania was reading about the polio eradication efforts and dreaming of working one day for this great cause, today, that young Rotaractor is a young Rotarian working in Pakistan with UNICEF, for the polio eradication initiative.

In Pakistan, the eradication journey has been long and challenging, but the progress is real and inspiring. Last year, the country recorded 74 cases while this year, that number fell to 29. And most are limited to one region, South Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a region with unique dynamics including issues of access or security for the polio workers and population movements.

On the other side, large areas of the country that once struggled, such as Karachi, Quetta Block, and Peshawar-Khyber, have not reported a single case in 2025. Punjab, home to more than half the country's children, has remained polio-free for seven months.

But do you know how all this progress happens on ground? It's by knocking every single door in Pakistan and vaccinating over 45 million children during the national vaccination campaigns. Every year, more than 3 national campaigns are being implemented, with more than 3 sub-national where around 29 million children are being vaccinated.

When written like this, it might not sound so amazing, but during my year here I joined 4 campaigns, walking along the polio workers from house to house, in extreme heat in some cases, and I must say that the efforts of these people to deliver vaccines and protect children against polio are beyond any written story.

Behind every drop of polio vaccine, behind every vaccinated child are the women and men that often walk for hours under the scorching sun, cross rivers in small boats, or climb steep mountain paths to make sure no child is left unprotected. At times, they even risk their lives in challenging security situations, yet they show up for every campaign with courage and determination.

For me even more touching are the women vaccinators whose role is remarkable, not only are they protecting children from polio, but they are also challenging deep-rooted social norms. By going door-to-door, engaging with families, and earning the trust of mothers, they are becoming agents of change, showing that women can lead, work, and shape healthier futures for their communities. Their efforts are not only bringing us closer to a polio-free world but also paving the way for greater women's empowerment in Pakistan.