

The artist, Carolyn Watson, contracted polio in 1939 at age 5 and wore Buster Brown shoes and leg braces up to her knees. Her art works in oils and acrylics were in galleries in Clear Lake and Galveston and she switched to drawings five years ago when post polio syndrome began limiting her mobility. Carolyn searched the internet for polio images and one that spoke to her was of a young girl on metal crutches, similar to what Carolyn now uses. The girl is pictured climbing steps; which Carolyn says is one of her most difficult struggles these days.

Carolyn's late husband, John, was a long-time Rotarian as an Air Force senior officer and former NASA program manager. They retired in San Antonio and Carolyn continues as an extended member of the Rotary Club of San Antonio West. She is a Paul Harris Fellow and it was at the club Christmas party this time last year that Carolyn presented the drawing for the District to use in End Polio fundraising during 2013-2014. Graphics were added, creating posters and flyers that are spread across South Central Texas.

When the district governor coordinated with her on the sale of the piece at this event, she was pleased that it would make a difference for places like Somalia and Syria. And she pointed out that at least six people continue using iron lungs in this country.

The graphite drawing is 8 ¾ X 12 and is signed on the reverse.

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Narrative written by Jerry Hardy, District Governor, D5840

Personal note: I've known Carolyn Watson at least ten years and asked her to create a piece of artwork that I could use for polio fundraising during the year I served as District Governor. I took her creation to a graphic designer, Rotarian Richard Contreras, and he built the poster around it.