

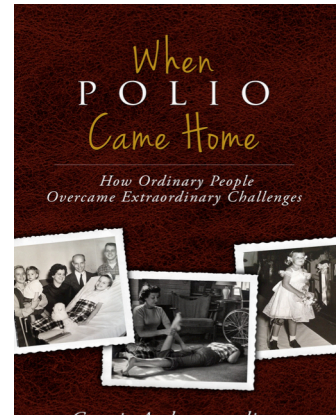
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Connie Anderson
5511 Southwood Drive
Bloomington, MN 55437
952-835-4731
poliostories@gmail.com

Remembering the Polio Epidemic, 60-Plus Years Later

Bloomington, Minn. (Dec. 20, 2013) – Polio reached the epidemic stage in the Twin Cities Metro area in 1952. Summer was the worst. Adults were fearful about what they allowed their children to do, especially when many people congregated. How did this dread disease spread? No one knew.



Starting in 1933, the number of cases nationwide rose each year, to 25,000 in 1946, 33,000 in 1950, and shockingly, 59,000 in 1952. The just-released book, *When Polio Came Home: How Ordinary People Overcame Extraordinary Challenges*, tells first how polio struck all kinds of homes, and second, once the children were diagnosed, hospitalized, and then returned home, many lives changed: theirs, their parents and siblings, and their community.

Starting in the late '90s, many who had polio as children in the 1930s, '40s and '50s, started having what became defined as Post-Polio Syndrome. The symptoms were similar to what they experienced when polio first hit. Before this, most people had lived a full and normal life.

In Minnesota, we had the treatment advantage of state-funded Gillette Hospital for Crippled Children, Sister Kenny (and her Institute), as well as fund-raising by Shriners and March of Dimes to help the families financially.

Available on Amazon—In the heart-warming collection stories of people's determination and drive, edited by Connie Anderson, 41 people (mostly Minnesotans) tell their very personal story of contracting the poliovirus. Some were hospitalized as young as eleven months, and a few spent four years hospitalized. Many also tell of having no aftereffects. May we *never again* experience such a national epidemic.

#####