

## **Time to join Rotaract at UVU**

On April 29, at 9am, I attended a special meeting with Utah Rotary members at Utah Valley University. I came to the event with the idea of just sitting and listening; I had no idea what Rotary International means or what I was getting myself into. From one presenter to another, listening, I found myself willing to sign up for a club that I wasn't sure was about.



*Ceremony of signing a charter for UVU Rotaract*

The day previous to the meeting, I was not sure whether it would be worth for me to go to the meeting for extra credit. However, now I know that it was a good idea to attend it because now I am excited to attend the meetings of the student Rotary clubs throughout the summer and the fall semesters. It is something that I hold dear to my heart that present values I find will enrich my life. The more I listened to the presenters, the more I wanted to get involved. It gave me hope for my future because this can change and have an impact both on my life, as well as others.

Rotaract is a program of Rotary International for individuals from ages 28-30 in universities and communities worldwide to organize service activities, and to develop leadership and professional skills. This reminds me a lot of Key club from when I was in high school. They have leadership conferences, youth conferences etc. There are over 9,500 Rotaract clubs, 291,006 Rotaractors, and over 150 countries with Rotaract clubs. I am fortunate enough to live in a country where it is not difficult to join a Rotaract club and fortunately, Rotaract has finally made it's way to Utah Valley University. There are already Rotaract clubs at Utah State University, and BYU among others.

I have grown up by being involved in community work such as volunteering at soup kitchens, starting up fundraisers for homeless etc. Rotary International promotes peace, supports education, saves mothers and children, helps fight diseases (such as Polio), and helps grow local economies. It had my name written all over it. Not only will this get me more involved but as well as the people that surround me: I can invite friends in order to help the club grow.

I am also the Pathfinder Director at my church. This could help me open door to the club and get younger people more involved. There are Pathfinder clubs all around Utah so not only young kids from Provo city will get involved but as well as from Salt Lake City, West Valley, Wasatch Front in the State of Utah among others. Since Rotaract encourages creation of clubs in high schools as well, they will open door students not just at school, but outside of school and through college.

I was even more excited when I heard that many different doors are open for those who are involved in Rotaract clubs. There are grants and scholarships that can be provided as well as networking with people all around the world. Not only can this be something that I can be

involved in while I am in school and work, this has the possibility of becoming a lifestyle and career.

Unfortunately, I had to leave the event too early since I attend church activities on Saturdays. I provided my contact information for future meetings and activities of the Rotaract clubs. I am very excited about my future and my last year in college.

*Jocelyn Lujan, UVU student*