

Rotary International and World Polio Day Commemoration at UVU



On Oct 23, 2019, Rotaract, a member of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at Utah Valley University (UVU) hosted a special event dedicated to the World Polio Day about polio eradication around the world. They did that through student engaged learning when Rotaractors worked as a group and the teacher assisted them as a mentor. I contributed to their efforts by taking photos during the event.

Rotaractors invited Dr. John Hanrahan, President of the Utah District Rotary as a keynote speaker. Dr. Hanrahan told us how he was eager to be involved in this humanitarian mission, as a Rotarian and very eager to make a change around the world. Dr. Hanrahan is passionate also in taking role as a District Rotary Governor in Rotary International (RI). Likewise, he has been involved with the organization for 20 years. Moreover, he plans to continue to volunteer in Rotary International as a physician when he can, and he will also remain on the clinic's board.

Dr. Hanrahan made his major presentation about the current necessity to end the polio throughout the world by vaccination kids. He spoke briefly about the history of RI and its major

initiatives in humanitarian area. RI focuses on six initiatives in areas such as building peace, providing good education, access to clean water and fighting different diseases among them.



Dr. John Hanrahan, President of the Utah District Rotary during the World Polio Day at UVU

He urged us all to contribute to the efforts of humanitarian organizations like Rotary International to successfully accomplish a goal of complete eradication of polio around the world: today, polio, as Dr. Hanrahan said, still appears in such countries as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Nigeria.

As a short-term goal of the District Rotary he also mentioned to have every club in Utah sponsor a four-way test essay contest in the eighth grade of every public and private school in their geographical area depends on club participation. The long-term goal is to develop a deeper

relationship with the local community's middle schools by introducing the concept of the four-way test to seventh graders. Even with these two goals, young people could become involve with Rotarians, connected with a diverse group of professionals, and work together. It is amazing how Rotary International brings together a global network of volunteers with prominent leaders who dedicate their time and tackle the world's most urgent humanitarian challenges.



UVU students during the World Polio Day event

Dr. Hanrahan also shared his thought about how in theory, humanitarian aid is meant to be delivered in a politically neutral manner, which can be very difficult to achieve in practice. The Rotary International as humanitarian organization has successfully achieved goals of aiding many countries that are very poor. The modern world still requires joint efforts of many humanitarian

organizations like Rotary International due to the emerging new challenges from an increasing number of players that wish to disrupt the peace by ignoring basic human rights.

Cory Levin, UIMF member