

## **World Polio Day Commemoration at Utah Valley University**

In commemoration of World Polio Day, Utah Valley University Rotaract held a commemoration event on Wednesday, October 23, 2019.

Rotary International is an international organization founded in 1905. Since its founding, Rotary has grown to over one-million members worldwide. Individual Rotary clubs exist all over the globe. Each club is actively involved in humanitarian and other service efforts in their local communities and around the world. Rotaract, Rotary's student branch is comprised of individuals ages ranged from eighteen to thirty. These student branches are also found all over the world, the first one being formed in 1968. Rotaract is also a member of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU to promote the United Nations sustainable mountain development agenda in the state of Utah and North America.

Rotary International has dedicated a significant amount of time, energy, and money to support the End Polio Now movement. End Polio Now and World Polio Day are dedicated to fighting polio and educating others about the global efforts against polio.



*Rotarians and Rotaractors during luncheon at UVU*

On October 23, 2019, UVU Rotaract hosted a luncheon on behalf of the Orem Rotary Club in room SC 213C of Utah Valley University from 12:00pm to 12:50pm. During the lunch, Orem Rotary members had the chance to discuss Rotary history and community outreach with various Utah Valley University representatives and professors. Additionally, Dr. Lynn England of the UVU peace and justice program was in attendance to discuss future plans between the Peace and Justice program and Orem Rotary. A few new members of UVU Rotaract were also able to attend the luncheon and had the chance to meet and collaborate with several members of Orem Rotary.



*Group photo during the World Polio Day at UVU*

Following the luncheon, the main event was hosted by members of the Utah Valley University Rotaract (UVU Rotaract) in the adjacent room from 1:00pm to 1:50pm. Orem Rotary was invited, along with university students and faculty, to attend. The main event consisted of guest speakers and our keynote speaker, Rotary District Governor Dr. John Hanrahan, presenting on polio, global engagement, and community activism.

Having the privilege to conduct the event, we began by offering a thanks to all in attendance. It was exciting to see such a group of individuals excited and dedicated to making a difference.



After inviting Yana Andersen, a new member to UVU, to the stand, she introduced our first guest speaker, Dr. Lago, CIO/Vice-Rector at UVU on Global Engagement.



***Dr. Lago, CIO/Vice-Rector for Global Engagement.at UVU speaks at the event***

Dr. Baldomero Lago spoke highly of Rotary's engagement in this past summer's record-breaking United Nations Conference that was held in Salt Lake City. He also made an exciting reminder of the creation of a legacy fund for those who are looking for funds to conduct projects relating to the initiatives and goals established by the United Nations. Dr. Lago concluded his remarks by informing us of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Diplomatic Conference for the state of Utah being held at Utah Valley University on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Following Dr. Lago's remarks, I was able to introduce our keynote speaker and Utah Rotary District Governor, Dr. John Hanrahan. Dr. Hanrahan spoke on the global history of polio as well as Rotary's efforts for polio eradication. He explained that today, the matter of polio eradication is not one of medical capabilities, but instead is a question of political determination. Rotary International has helped to drive this political will for decades. With new cases of polio

only appearing in two countries, efforts to fight this disease have proven extremely effective.



***Dr. John Hanrahan. Utah Rotary District Governor speaks about polio eradication campaign by Rotary International ,***

Dr. Hanrahan also shared that two of the existing three strains of polio have already been eradicated. This is due to the incredibly successful vaccine that has been spread throughout the world. END POLIO NOW, the organization that Rotary as well as many other organizations such as UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation have teamed up with for the eradication of polio have been able to create a massive network of health workers that are actively vaccinating the global population to help fight the spread of the last remaining strain of the polio virus. With the active spread of polio only existing in two countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, the efforts of Rotary and End Polio Now is closer than ever to their eventual success.

Before the conclusion of the event, UVU Rotaract members, Albeny Singh and Abdulrahman Alghanmi, introduced our final two speakers, Dr. Steve Anderson and Dean Robinson, UVU Director of Community and Government Outreach and Orem Rotary President Elect, respectively.





*Dr. Steve Anderson, UVU Director of Community and Government Outreach addresses the UVU audience*

Dr. Anderson, having personally seen the effects of polio in the life of his grandfather, spoke about his excitement to be involved in World Polio Day. In his role as Director of Community and Government Relations, Dr. Anderson works extensively with city, state, and federal governments. He directed his time toward student engagement and took time to talk about student opportunities with internships that are available in the community. These opportunities help students become involved in causes such as polio eradication.

Dr. Robinson shared with us a history of the creation of Rotary international and explained its start from simple beginnings and rise to millions of members in hundreds of countries. He also spoke about his personal experience with the beginning days of Rotary's involvement in polio eradication and expressed his excitement of how much it has been able to grow since then. Dr. Robinson explained that there is a great deal of room for students and members of the community to come and get involved in Rotary and specifically in UVU Rotaract and the Orem Rotary club.



***Dean Robinson, Orem Rotary President Elect speaks about Rotary activities in Utah County***

Through the efforts of UVU Rotaract, Utah Valley University, Orem Rotary, UVU Peace and Justice Studies, and the Office of Global Engagement, we were able to establish stronger relations for future cooperation and community outreach. Additionally, having gained a stronger knowledge base of the fight to eradicate polio, the involved organizations will be able to play a more active role in the fight to officially make polio as the second disease completely eradicated disease in history.

We are grateful for the support of Utah Valley University and the Orem Rotary Club for adding so much to this event. Their contributions have helped in aiding the cause of polio eradication around the world.

## Preparations for World Polio Day



### *UVU Rotaract hosts table at UVU*

In the weeks before World Polio Day and the World Polio Day Commemoration Event, Utah Valley University Rotaract engaged student on the Utah Valley University campus about the subject of polio and its eradication. UVU Rotaract also took this time to reach out to other students about joining Rotaract.

On October 21st, 2019, UVU Rotaract held a tabling event on the UVU campus. Students Albeny Singh, Yana AndersEn, Abdulrahman Alghanmi, Byan Alghanmi Hazim, and worked to inform students about World Polio Day.

*Kyle Warren, UVU Rotaract President*