

A Special Delivery For Children In Need

On November 18th 2022, Utah Valley University (UVU) Rotaractors were able to work with the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club to deliver winter coats to children in need at Windsor Elementary school in Orem, Utah. Rotaract is a student club that works with Rotary International to provide students service opportunities in their community. As a student club Rotaract provides opportunities for students like me to be involved in different activities through a Student Engaged Learning (SEL) model. SEL places focus on providing students hands-on experience in their field of study, and makes my education feel more practical since I can see how I may apply it after graduating. UVU Rotaract is a member of the Utah International Mountain Forum (UIMF), a coalition of student clubs at UVU which advocates for sustainable mountain development in the State of Utah and globally.

Prior to delivery, Rotarians and UVU Rotaractors worked together to raise funds through initiatives like selling oranges. These funds were used to purchase coats for children in need, and I had the privilege to deliver these coats and hear first hand from staff at Windsor Elementary School how impactful these would be in the lives of the children who received this aid.

Being able to participate in coats for kids projects was a reminder of why I chose to study international relations. I have been incredibly fortunate in my life, and this field seemed like one of the best ways for me to get involved with helping to provide relief for those who were less lucky than I have been. As I have progressed through my degree, the question of what I want to do with it when I'm done has come up time and again. While that question remains up in the air, this event

helped illustrate how non-governmental organizations (NGO's) like Rotary International can be alternatives to more obvious career paths like the US State Department or United Nations.

Given my plans for continued involvement with UVU Rotaract, one of the things I want to see most is the behind-the-scenes effort in projects like coats for kids. My involvement was little more than delivering the coats to their end destination. I want to learn how people go about setting up these kinds of direct aid efforts that are so valuable in the lives of individuals, and even do this kind of work myself someday.



Orem-Lindon Rotarians and UVU Rotaractors delivering coats to Windsor Elementary School Staff

I appreciate UVU programs and activities with SEL as a core encouraging students to be proactive in their professional advancement through practical actions.

McKay Brooks, UVU Rotaract Vice President