

## **Coats for Kids - Our Commitment to Keep Our Local Children Warm.**

On December 1st, 2023 at 2:30 pm, Rotaractor Students from Utah Valley University joined up with Orem-Lindon Rotarians to deliver and donate coats to children in need at Centennial Elementary School. We were able to donate 10 large bags full of over 60 new coats for the elementary children there, right in time for the rapid drop in temperatures after the first snow in Orem just a week prior.



**School Administration, Rotarians, and Rotaractors showing coats to be donated**

This donation was part of a much larger Coats for Kids Initiative which continues annually, this year for 2023 we were able to raise money for and donate 357 new coats to children in seven schools around the Orem area, including Bonneville Elementary, Northridge Elementary, Cascade Elementary, Cherry Hill Elementary,

Windsor Elementary, and Westmore Elementary. In the city of Orem alone, over 9,970 thousand people, including families and children, live below the federal poverty line. Both Orem-Lindon Rotary and Rotaract at UVU believe that all families deserve the ability to stay warm during the winter and access quality clothing regardless of their financial situation.



**UVU Rotaract Club president Carter B. Darger delivering coats alongside Rotarians**

Each year, Coats for Kids begins fundraising in February by selling freshly picked oranges from California (Read More at - [Utah Valley University Rotaractors Annual Fundraising | Utah International Mountain Forum](#))

Then, in the Summer during OremFest, Orem-Lindon with UVU Rotaract support hosts an all-you-can-eat Breakfast Fundraiser. (Read more at [Orem Fest All-you-can-eat Breakfast Fundraiser Hosted by the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club 2023 | Utah International Mountain Forum | Utah Valley University](#))



***Coats are sorted before being delivered to local elementary schools.***

After purchasing coats, usually done during sales, and sorting them, Orem-Lindon Rotary collaborates with school administration from schools all around the city to find the best method for the coats to get to the children who need them. Once this is all done, we are able to finally begin delivering!



***( L to R ) Rotaract VP Janessa Purcell, Rotaract Secretary Stephan Atkinson, Principal Ana Rojas, Rotaractor from the Congo Louyoko Christ, Rotaractor from the United Kingdom Ellie, and Orem-lindon Rotarian Cholpon Akmatalieva gathering next to the bags of coats being donated where Principal Rojas thanked them for the massive impact they continue to have on kids throughout Orem.***

Being a part of Coats for Kids 2023 has shown first-hand the impact we can have together on our community. Orem-Lindon Rotarians continue to alleviate the hardships of countless families in our community, something I am very glad to continue participating in. If there is one thing I have learned while serving my community as president of Rotaract at Utah Valley University, it is that anyone can have a major impact on the community around them.

Read more about previous years of Coats for Kids - [2021 Coats for Kids Initiative of the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club | Utah International Mountain Forum](#)

***Carter Darger, UVU Rotaract President***