

## DJ Smith: A Committed Rotarian and Community Leader



D.J. Smith and his wife, Roberta.

After nearly 29 years as a Collegiate Athletic Administrator at Utah Valley University, DJ Smith retired on March 31, 2014. Retirement has allowed him to focus more on his personal interests, spending time with family, and engaging in church and community service. While stepping away from full-time work, DJ remains involved in numerous opportunities, including community service through the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club.

DJ joined the Rotary Club in 2003 while serving as Associate Athletic Director at Utah Valley University. His goal was to create stronger ties between the athletic department and the community through service. Over the past 21 years, DJ has played an active role in the club's growth, helping it evolve into a vibrant organization known for its commitment to local and international service projects.

As a Rotarian, DJ is passionate about the six core areas of Rotary's mission: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting maternal and child health, promoting education, and fostering economic development. Notable projects include efforts to eradicate polio globally, supplying winter coats to local children in need, and providing clean water access to communities in Armenia. Currently serving as the treasurer of the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club, DJ focuses on maintaining accurate financial records and maximizing the club's ability to raise funds for its many charitable initiatives. His previous roles include twice serving as club president, further demonstrating his leadership and dedication to service.

DJ Smith is proud of his Utah roots, having lived in the state since 1967. He cherishes the beauty of the landscape and the values of the community, particularly the spirit of service and the keen sense of family. Through his work with Rotary and his personal life, DJ continues to make a positive impact in his community.

*Interviewed by Louyoko Nianza, UVU student*

### **About the author**

*Louyoko Nianza, hailing from Congo, is currently pursuing his education in political science in the United States. With a deep commitment to fostering transformative leadership, Louyoko is the proponent of "smart-africanism," a concept he envisions as the cornerstone for a new era of true leadership in Africa. His academic pursuits and innovative ideas aim to inspire and cultivate a generation of leaders dedicated to the advancement and prosperity of the African continent. Louyoko Nianza is a Visionary Rotaractor.*