

My contribution to the World Polio Day Event at UVU



World Polio Day commemoration at UVU

On October 23rd, 2019, Utah Valley University (UVU)'s Rotaract Club, in conjunction with Orem Rotary Club, hosted a World Polio Day Event. The Rotaract Club is a student club for members ages 18-30 who want to become actively involved with service in their community. There are Rotaract Clubs in 184 countries, with the first Rotaract emerging in 1968. The Rotaract Club is under Rotary International, an organization that helps, according to their website, "professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships, and give back to their communities." This organization has also been very influential in helping to eradicate Polio. Rotary International started fighting against Polio in 1979. In the beginning, their goal was to vaccinate 6 million kids in the Philippines. Since then, Rotary

International has teamed Global Polio Eradication Initiative to help eradicate 99.9% of all Polio cases worldwide. They have contributed 1.8 billion dollars and vaccinated 2.5 billion children in 122 countries. Today, polio has only been found in three countries, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan, compared to 188 countries back when the initiative was started.



Dr. John Hanrahan, District Rotary President speaks about polio eradication

The event was hosted by Rotaractors as a student engaged learning initiative, when we implemented all assigned tasks through our group efforts and our teacher assisted us in cases

when we were not able to achieve something by ourselves. To gear up for this event at UVU, I, along with a few other students involved in Rotaract Club, did a tabling event on October 21, 2019 to help raise awareness of Polio, recruit new club members, and let the students know about the World Polio Day Event that was coming up.



(L to R): Albeny Singh, Yana Anderson and Hazim Alshanbari, UVU Rotaractors, host table

According to the assigned tasks, I also contacted Dr. Baldomero Lago, CIO for UVU Global Engagement, Dr. John Hanrahan, who is the President of the District Rotary, Dr. Anderson, the Director of Community and Government Relations for UVU, and Dean F. Robinson, a President-Designate of the Orem Rotary Club, all of which would be presenting in the World Polio Day Event. From them, I gathered short auto-biographies and reiterated the information that the speakers provided to me to my colleague Yana Anderson in order for her to make brochures for the event.



Albany Singh introduces Dr. Anderson during the World Polio Day event

When World Polio Day came on October 23rd, 2019, many members of the Rotaract Club, including myself, helped set up the event. Many of our students, including myself, then participated at lunch with members and leaders of the Orem Rotary Club and employees of UVU's Global Engagement office. After that, we all joined together to listen to Dr. John Hantahan and other speakers give their presentations regarding the devastating effects that Polio had and still has in the world. Overall, It was a very successful event in which Rotarians and Rotaractors were able to raise awareness about Polio as well as talk to both the Rotaract Club and the community about ways in which we could help eradicate Polio.

Albany Singh, Rotaract Club Secretary