My Contribution to the Service Project to Plant Tulips in Orem City

A lively Rotary Club members of Orem/Lindon met on October 19, 2024, to plant tulip bulbs in flower beds at Nielsen Grove Park in Orem. In attendance were Rotary Club President Mike Rich, Cholpon Akmatalieva, Baktybek Abdrisaev, Cathy Ambrose, D.J. Smith, Debby Lauret, Jim Lauret, Cherise Armstrong, Lynn Hillstead, Utah Valley University Rotaractor Christ Louyoko Nianza, and myself, Mary Stea (Cisneros). Some of us are also members of the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs from UVU.

Orem-Lindon Rotary members and Utah Valley University Rotaractors group photo after planting tulips

During the Fall Semester 2024, the two groups worked very well together and collaborated on various projects. In addition to beautifying parks in Utah Valley, they have worked jointly on political endeavors and met with politicians on the issues of

mountain and mountain culture sustainability, conservation, and the broader issue of climate change.

These clubs are brought together on the common interests they share and bring their time, energy, resources, and passion for making the world a better, and more beautiful place to live in.

Mary Cisneros planting tulips

The tulips will bloom in the Spring, and they will be a delightful sight for everyone who visits Nielsen Grove Park in Orem, Utah, just South of UVU. I, too, was there and shared many interesting conversations and breakfast with the other members of these two organizations. Also, I received much valuable mentoring about gardening from Dr. Cholpon Akmatalieva, a faculty of History and Political Science at UVU, who, because of her life experiences in politics, always has something interesting to

say. My experiences with them are energizing and fun. This collaboration came about as a result of mutual support for their endeavors at UVU and the work they share as contributors to the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations, that are held every year. I became involved in these projects with the encouragement of Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev who is a teacher at UVU and UIMF mentor. His valuable experience as an Ambassador of Kyrgyzstan to the United States and to Canada has made the engaged learning model a great success at UVU due to his mentoring and welcoming his International Affairs students into these important projects. I first became involved at the Women of the Mountains International Conference, held under the auspices of the United Nations in 2015, and the result of which is that now UVU students are welcome to participate in UNCSW every year, under the watchful eye of Dr. Abdrisaev.

Jim Laurett, Debby Laurett and Lynn Hillstead, Orem Lindon Rotarians planting tulips

Nielsen's Grove Park is said to be 145 years old, making it the oldest park in Utah. It was started by Danish immigrant, Jorgen Nielsen, hence the name.

Mary Cisneros, UVU Alumni