

My Contribution to Hosting World Polio Day at Utah Valley University



Group photo of participants at World Polio Day at Utah Valley University

On Thursday, October 23rd, 2025, I had the great opportunity of both attending and hosting Utah Valley University (UVU)'s 8th annual World Polio Day observation. This event was a culmination of efforts from students in the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU, Foreign Affairs Club, UVU Rotaract, and Rotarians from the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club. We were privileged to have Mr. Oliver Rosenbauer, a Communications Officer of the WHO for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative join us virtually and speak about the history, current situation, and future of the mission to entirely eradicate Polio.

The poster features a red and yellow color scheme. At the top left, a red box contains the text "END POLIO NOW" in yellow. To the right is a photograph of two young girls smiling. Below the red box is a small portrait of Oliver Rosenbauer with his name and title: "by Oliver Rosenbauer, Communications Officer, Global Polio Eradication Initiative, World Health Organization". The main title reads "Rotary and Rotaract's PolioPlus Effort - A Global Quest to Eradicate an Ancient Scourge". A handwritten note says "To my friends in Utah - here is to a great year work!". The event details are: "When: Oct. 23rd, 2025, 11:30am" and "Where: LA 233, Utah Valley University". A QR code is provided for more info. Additional text states "Entry is open to all students and refreshments will be provided" and "Event hosted through Student Engaged Learning". Logos for the World Health Organization, UVU Department of History & Political Science, and Orem-Lindon Rotary Club are at the bottom.

Poster for World Polio Day, Designed by Curtis Bristol

This event was a part of the Student Engaged Learning model (SEL), meaning that students took the lead and performed the majority of the tasks to make this event come to fruition by working as a group with our teacher mentoring us when necessary. As part of the preparation for this event I had the honor of designing the poster that would help spread the word about this event and its mission. In creating this poster, I worked together with Kade Van Ry, Vice-President of the Foreign Affairs Club and Natalia Figueroa, President of the Foreign Affairs Club. I learned more about the importance of the work to end polio and the many different groups including Rotarians and Rotaractors, that are involved and invested in making a polio free world a reality.



President of UIMF, Janessa Michelle-Purcell, addresses Mr. Oliver Rosenbauer during his presentation at World Polio Day

Mr. Rosenbauer's presentation was informative and inspiring, sharing his vast experience in this field of work and his high hopes for the future. Mr. Rosenbauer has been a Rotarian since 2015 and shared that while polio has dramatically decreased, it still exists and requires attention and actions in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Gaza.



Participants at World Polio Day, including Curtis Bristol, listen to Mr. Oliver Rosenbauer's Keynote speech

I was also a team leader in charge of protocol for the event, helping ensure coordination by Natalia Figueroa with local Rotarians to manage effectively and beneficially for all involved. This helped me grow my leadership skills and multitasking and become a more effective communicator. This chance to be a part of the 8th World Polio Day at UVU has helped me better prepare for the 2026 visit to the UN in Geneva and New York and become more invested in the UN's various missions to improve the world, especially its quest to eradicate polio.

Curtis Bristol, Vice-President, Foreign Affairs Club at Utah Valley University