

Coats for Kids; a UIMF Tradition





Group photo after the service project has been completed.

The Coats for Kids initiative involves collecting coats through donations or by purchase, which the Orem-Lindon Rotary Club works very hard all year to fundraise these efforts to provide for Title I schools in the Orem and Lindon area. Title I schools are schools that serve children and families in low-income areas. In the summer, the Rotary club hosts an annual Pancake breakfast where proceeds are used to fund various service initiatives throughout the year.

**SERVICE PROJECT
SORTING COATS**


Join us to help the Utah International Mountain Forum serve community members in need!

**Help Us Build
Birthday Kits!**

 **CB213**
9 6:00-7:30pm
 **Wednesday,**
March 25, 2026



Contact Us:

 @uimf_uvuv

Service project flyer, edited by UIMF President, Janessa- Michelle Purcell.

Through the Student-Engaged Learning (SEL) model that encourages students to play a proactive role in tackling real world problems and finding solutions under the guidance of faculty mentorship. The SEL model gives opportunities to both traditional and non-traditional students a chance to gain first-hand experience in many different ways. Non-traditional students are those who are older than 25 and balance coursework with family and work life.

As I have been serving as UIMF club president since 2024, and the UVU

Rotaract president since 2025, I have been the point of contact with the Orem-Lindon Rotary club when we organize service projects. While I have been away at my internship at the Utah State Legislature, Cherise and I have been collaborating to put together this project for our club members. This included finding a date and time Cherise could meet with us on campus to prep the coats. Once we had a time and date, I submitted the scheduling forms to UVU's club office to reserve a classroom for us to utilize before updating our service project flyer template.



UIMF club members collect the bags before the service project.

I arrived at our service project early to run to the library to acquire scissors for our project. When Cherise arrived on campus, our group walked with her to her car to grab the bags of coats. All together there were 35 bags of coats we would sort and organize. We piled into the elevator to get to our classroom to begin our work. Cherise took some time to give us instructions on how she would like us to sort and organize the coats. We were instructed to cut off any tags on the coats, inspect the conditions of the coats, separating those that may need to be washed and those that were ready to go. While we were sorting the coats, little groups were around the room with club members talking and laughing. You can learn a lot

about your fellow club members at service projects when you are engaged in work that will help others in need.

Once we had finished sorting the coats to their various designations, we carried the bags back down to Cherise's car.



UIMF club members collect the bags after the service project

Since my involvement began with UIMF in 2023, I have been fortunate enough to participate in this annual project as well as the pancake breakfasts during the summer. It is a full circle moment, when you help with the fundraising of money that is used to fund these different initiatives, and see it through in each stage. It has become one of my favorite service projects because you know that it helps children in need. Each year that I have participated we have been able to purchase more and more coats as the demands from the elementary and middle schools grow. The coat count for this year exceeds 800 coats, and has made a positive impact in the Orem and Lindon communities. Projects such as these allow us to grow closer as a community but also allows our club members to engage in kindness and compassion.

From an educational standpoint, as advocates of Sustainable Development in mountain communities, we are gaining first-hand experiences of the struggles and challenges they encounter. To best advocate, we as life-time learners and students need to understand these communities who are often underserved and lack a strong platform to voice their issues. This understanding does not only cover the struggles mountain communities deal with, but also the strengths in the things that they have and do. An informed advocate is an empowered advocate, and it is why I have been so insistent on our club members participating in different service projects to allow us to be more well rounded students and advocates.

- **Janessa- Michelle Purcell, UIMF Club President**