

Statement

Parallel event “Mountain Women Empowerment Through the Inclusive Student-Engaged Learning Model”

65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

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I am honored today to speak about the cooperation between Rotary International, our local Rotary Club of Orem (Utah) and the Rotaract Club at Utah Valley University. Rotary International is a global network of 1.2 million members who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision under the motto of Rotary International: “Service Above Self”.

For more than 115 years, Rotary's people of action have used their passion, energy, and intelligence to take action on sustainable projects. Our 35,000+ clubs mission is to provide service to others and work together to:

- Promote peace
- Fight disease
- Provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Save mothers and children
- Support education
- Grow local economies
- Get involved

Utah Rotary is a community of nearly 1,600 service-minded professionals and local leaders in over 40 clubs all over the state. One of these clubs is the local Rotary Club of Orem. We are fortunate to have Utah Valley University (UVU) in our city. UVU has an active Rotaract club that consists of women and men who are students at the University and an advisor who is both on the faculty at UVU and a member of the Orem club.

UVU as a teaching institution through an "engaged learning" encourages students to participate in internships, community service and curriculum that includes the "how" along with the "what" and "why." What a perfect fit for students to be engaged in service in the communities where they live and work and to cooperate with other people of service in those communities!

We have created a partnership now between the Orem Rotary and Rotaract which allows the Rotaract Club, the UVU Office of Global Engagement and the Utah International Mountain Forum to provide monthly regular local services where it is most needed. Some of our recent projects we have worked on are providing warm winter coats for local children in need and selling oranges to raise money not only to support local charities, but also to support international students at UVU who were particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Next month, we will be

working with the students, including Rotaractors, on some community beautification and cleanup activities to celebrate Earth Day. And this event is another example of our partnership.

Recently, one of our great privileges was to work cooperatively with UVU, the Office for Global Engagement, to host and participate in the 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference in Salt Lake City in August 2019. Rotarians and Rotractors had a significant presence in the Exhibit Hall where an Iron Lung was on display that drew in crowds to learn more about Rotary.-Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors (high school students) presented several workshops, including one on how to “Make Your Large or Small Project Successful and Sustainable: How Rotary Clubs from around the world get small and large things done through cooperation with other groups and individuals” to share examples of service projects that truly made an impact in their own communities and around the world.

We are pleased to participate in this session of the Commission on the Status of Women and advocate for empowering mountain women and girls through “Engaged Learning” by providing collaborative local, national and international service.