

UIMF Club Members Serve during 2021 Orem Rotary Pancake Breakfast



The Orem Rotary Club Pavilion

On the Saturday of June 12th, 2021, the UIMF as well as members of the UVU Rotaract and Foreign Affairs clubs assisted Orem Rotary in putting on their annual pancake breakfast. We were fortunate to have individuals with us that have participated in many activities, as well as welcoming our newest member Altiha Thompson to her first event. The pancake breakfast has been a very long tradition that we were able to help continue through our volunteer efforts. It is held during Orem Summerfest, a city-sponsored 'fair.' The breakfast raises needed funds that the Rotary club will utilize in later service projects and ultimately be funneled back into the local communities.



Participants helping set up

Everyone met at the Rotary Pavilion in the Orem City Center park at 7am to begin preparations. The food and many of the supplies were provided by the Orem Rotary club. The first things that we needed to do were to set up all the equipment and prepare the tables. Proper hygiene and food handling was adhered to closely. Previously, we had cleaned the pavilion and surrounding areas during another service project in anticipation of this event. Proper planning and preparation are imperative to hosting a successful event.



Volunteers during initial preparations

Following the basic preparations, Dr. Dean Robinson, current President of Orem Rotary, gathered everyone around and thanked them for being here. He then explained the process of the food line so that all would understand and be able to help maintain good service. We were then separated into our different responsibilities and stations. It is important that every person knows their job and would be able to perform their function. This kept the line running smoothly despite serving hundreds of individuals during the two hours of the event from 8am to 10am.



Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev, UIMF Mentor, uses a specialized tool to stir pancake mix in bulk

Among the designated responsibilities, there were people in charge of being cooks, taking payments and admitting the public, serving, and various other supportive tasks. I was personally in charge of filling and handing out drinks. I went through 24 gallons of chocolate milk, 4 gallons of ‘regular’ white milk, two 5 gallon jugs of orange ‘tang,’ and numerous pitchers of water. There were times that we would have to help each other out due to the immense crowds, but we were able to collectively keep pace with the high demand.



Photo of line operations



Patrons enjoying the pancake breakfast

Live music was provided by the Rotary club and the summer weather combined with the nearby roller coaster rides and fair booths created a pleasant atmosphere for the event.



Myself (left) with Orem City Mayor Richard Brunst (right)

The pancake breakfast was unfortunately canceled last year due to COVID. This year, a record number of people from the local community came to support this initiative. I was even able to meet the Mayor of Orem, Mr. Richard Brunst. This event was very successful, and the help provided by UVU students through our respective organizations under the UIMF enabled it to be so. As a coalition, it is important that we support one another in our initiatives, and work closely with Rotary International. Furthermore, as student leaders, it is key that we lead by example through our Student-Engaged Learning model. We were able to do both today as we have on occasions past and will continue to do so in the near future.

Mr. Dallas Karren, UIMF President