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FEATURED

## Mayor Brunst: A community beyond measure

Richard Brunst Orem mayor 23 hrs ago



Volunteers, students at UVU and members of the Habitat for Humanity group help to build a house for Kimberly Harter on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, in Provo. The project is aimed at reminding the community to help those that are in need. DOMINIC VALENTE, Daily Herald

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This last week, I attended a board meeting for Habitat for Humanity and listened to their annual report for 2017-18.

At the meeting, I was given a small tape measure shaped like a house. This was to signify that they had a year beyond measure.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that works with many volunteers and businesses to help free Utah Valley from poverty housing. Their list of accomplishments this past year is inspiring.

With the help of 26 builders and subcontractors, they built three new homes housing four adults and seven children. Close to 30 local corporations, businesses churches and other organizations also helped out. They also supported community gardens, wrapped Christmas presents at University Place and received a new truck donated by Orem to carry out critical home repair projects for those in need.

CNN recently reported that Utah has the highest percentage of residents who volunteer to help than any other state in the nation.

When I think of the many volunteers in Orem who help out with nonprofit organizations to help those in need, I am truly grateful. We have such organizations as Habitat for Humanity, Kids on the Move, TURN Community Services, the Center for Women and Children in Crisis, Family Support and Treatment, the Food and Care Coalition in Provo, United Way of Utah County, the American Red Cross, a new store called Compassionate Sheep — which provides resources to help the poor and homeless — our wonderful churches of many faiths, the Boy Scouts of America, Latinos in Action and many other local volunteer organizations.

Many people provide so much good and do so much to help those in need for various reasons in our wonderful community.

As the mayor of Orem, I have had the wonderful opportunity to help build a house for Habitat; walk a mile in red high heels (literally) to raise funds for the Center for Women and Children in Crisis; co-chair raising funds to fight Alzheimer's disease; flip pancakes with UVU's past President Matthew Holland, BYU's President Kevin J Worthen and many of the county mayors to serve more than 1,000 volunteers who then went out and performed a day of service last September; attend Red Cross and Scouting events; work with Kids on the Move; participate with the adults at TURN Community Services; and many other charitable events.

I believe Orem and all of Utah County are places full of people who are willing to volunteer and help those less fortunate and in need.

I wish to thank all who have helped others in our community in the past year in some small way. It is interesting for me to work alongside other government officials, company presidents and owners, people well-known in our community, teenagers, young mothers accomplished artists and athletes and many others to help provide help and services to our community.

Utah County truly is an area of compassionate service. May we all continue to look for ways to volunteer to help and serve our fellow man.