

Celebrating
50 Years
 of Service
 to the World!

SPECIAL FEATURE
 Partnerships

Sister Cities International *quarterly*

Spring 2006



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Islamic Peace & Friendship Initiative

A 50th Dream Realized

Birmingham's Camp David Moment

It was a day for peace and reconciliation. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute provided the perfect setting to sign a three-way sister city agreement uniting U.S., predominantly Islamic, and Jewish communities.

Delegations from Rosh Ha'ayin, Israel led by Mayor Moshe Sinai and al-Karak, Jordan led by Mayor Mohammad Maaitah visited their U.S. sister city to participate in a joyous signing ceremony and plan future exchanges. Birmingham Mayor Bernard Kincaid signed sister city agreements with both Rosh Ha'ayin and al-Karak, making these cities Birmingham's ninth and tenth active sister city relationships.

Organizers said, "Our dream and goal is that these relationships will embody the ideal of our Civil Rights Institute and District, that from conflict and violence that people can come to-

gether in reconciliation and move forward together for a brighter future for humanity."

Local Jewish and Arab-American groups were very involved with planning and fundraising for this unique joint signing. Chairperson Ruth Lamonte said the signing was "a daring act of faith in the ability of groups to come together" and a dream come true for the 50th anniversary of the sister city movement in 2006.

Mayor Maaitah toured and explored exchanges involving Birmingham programs that work with disabled youth and children, as well as urban planning and solid waste disposal programs. Mayor Sinai explored

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Cover photo: See page 3.



Our Mission

To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time.



Sister Cities International *quarterly*

The *Sister Cities International Quarterly* is produced four times per year by Sister Cities International, 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 850, Washington, DC 20004, 202.347.8630, www.sister-cities.org. We gladly accept submissions of photos and stories from members year round. Please realize that while we welcome and consider fully all submissions, we cannot fit everything we receive into the newsletter. Stories from local programs are more likely to be used if they focus on conveying a lesson learned or best practice that can help other sister city programs. Please identify people in photos and write a cutline describing what is happening in the photo. All photos submitted must be cleared for copyright use and all persons must have given their permission for the image to be used in publicity materials.

Representing more than 2,500 communities in 134 countries, Sister Cities International is a citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between the U.S. and communities abroad. Begun in 1956 after a White House summit where U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower called for people-to-people exchanges, sister city partnerships are tailored to local interests and increase global cooperation at the grassroots level. Sister Cities International promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation by focusing on sustainable development, youth and education, arts and culture, humanitarian assistance and economic growth programs.

Contributing Editors: Ami Neiberger-Miller
Editor/Designer: Kathryn Poppy

In Passing

Des Plaines Sister Cities was saddened by the death of **Frank Quellmalz** on December 29, 2005. He founded the Des Plaines chapter of Sister Cities International in 1982 and was involved in the sister city movement from its early beginnings after the Second World War. He even attended a six-hour dinner with U.S. President Eisenhower at the White House.



Where There Is Opportunity for Peace, There Is Opportunity for Partnership

by Sherman Banks
President of the Board of Directors

Sister Cities International has in its near 50 year history helped to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation – one individual, one community at a time. Our message is heard in over 900 cities in the United States, over 1,200 communities in 132 countries. Since Sister Cities established its Islamic Initiative after 9/11, we have increased our partnerships with Islamic countries by over 33 percent.

International and cross-cultural awareness and understanding on the part of our citizenry will be crucial to continued effective U.S. leadership, competitiveness, prosperity, and national security in this century. Former president of the United States, Bill Clinton said, “There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured with what is right with America.” What is needed to achieve this is a renewed national commitment to engaging our citizens in partnerships with the rest of the world.

A clear statement of priority from all levels of government is needed as well. And as a nation, we also need to make international engagement a priority. Our leaders must lay out a persuasive case for why Americans need to connect with the world. We

do not have the option of disregarding the world’s citizens understanding of America and Americans understanding the rest of the world.

A globally literate and internationally engaged American public should be one of the strongest links in our national security. Mutual understanding and respect have never been more essential to our country’s well being, as the threat of terrorism demonstrates. There is no better way to address the dangerous two-way knowledge deficit than by enlisting the people in advancing U.S. foreign relations through citizen exchange.

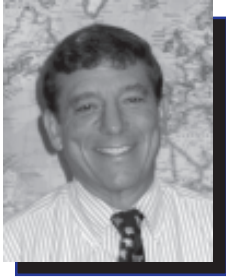
Therefore the mission of Sister Cities International in the 21st century is to seek partnerships wherever and whenever the opportunity arises to promote peace.

Remember the words of George Eliot, “*May every soul that touches mine – be it the slightest contact – get there from some good; some little grace; one kindly thought; one aspiration yet unfelt; one bit of courage for the darkening sky; one gleam of faith to brave the thickening ills of life; one glimpse of brighter skies beyond the gathering mists – to make this life worthwhile.*” The signing of a partnership, a friendship indeed, makes life worthwhile. ♦

INTERESTED CANDIDATES Board of Directors

If you are interested in running for election for the Board of Directors, candidate forms must be filed between April 16, 2006 and May 16, 2006.

For more information, please contact Lindsay Wilson, 202.347.8630 x4004 or at lwilson@sister-cities.org.



Partners with the World The Many Benefits of Partnership

by Tim Honey, Executive Director

During our 50th Anniversary year, we are extremely proud of the marvelous partnerships established with organizations, institutions and individuals from around the world.

These partnerships are designed to achieve:

- mutual benefits to both the sister city movement and our partners.
- advancement of the mission and goals of the sister city movement.
- direct benefits to the membership of Sister Cities International.
- substantive results that can be effectively measured and shared.

Strategic partnerships support our organization's development.

Partnerships are a key element of our organizational development and strategic planning process. We understand and celebrate the importance of mutual collaboration – drawing together different organizations and individuals into a network of creativ-

ity and opportunity.

Partnerships benefit communities.

The support and involvement of “community based partners” is a key factor in creating, implementing and sustaining a highly successful sister city programs and exchanges. Partnerships are critical to building successful sister city programs at the local level.

Recognition is important.

We wish to thank our partners and we look forward to recognizing their many contributions to the sister city movement. Our “Musical Tribute to Citizen Diplomacy” at the historic Warner Theater in Washington, D.C. during the 50th Anniversary Conference will honor our partners in a very special way.

I hope you'll make a special effort this year to recognize and thank your key partners – let them know how critical they are to helping us build a more peaceful, just, and tolerant world. ♦

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continued close ties with the Jewish Federation and ties with local music programs and universities. Birmingham, Rosh Ha'ayin and al-Karak are planning exchanges of city staff, and they are also planning a music camp in Rosh Ha'ayin for youth from all three cities.

In a tragic irony, at the very moment the agreements were being signed, terrorist bombs were exploding in Amman, Jordan. Mayors from all three cities used the opportunity to address local media about the importance of sister city relationships and people to people exchanges.

For more information about this partnership, contact Scotty Colson, 205.254.2277, rscolso1@ci.birmingham.al.us.

COVER PHOTO: Revolution & Reconciliation

Mayors Bernard Kincaid (Birmingham, Alabama), Mohammad Maaitah (al-Karak, Jordan) and Moshe Sinai (Rosh Ha'ayin, Israel) stand next to a marker in the Birmingham Civil Rights District saying “A Place of Revolution and Reconciliation.” Organizers say this photo, “reflects our hope that these relationships will be a way for us to work together in the spirit of the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities International and its mission of bringing peace, friendship and understanding to our world - one friendship at a time.” ♦

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50th Anniversary Conference Act Now! Before It's Too Late!



Participating in the 50th Anniversary Conference, being held July 13-15 in Washington, D.C. will be the experience of a lifetime.

The time to make your decision to attend is NOW! Join hundreds of your sister city colleagues who have already signed on. This once-in-a-lifetime event is limited to one thousand attendees. If you don't act now, you may end up on the waiting list.

To register and learn more, go online today at www.sister-cities.org and click

"Join the Celebration." The registration fee is \$600.00 per person through June 23, 2006.

If you want to know the speaker lineup, what's happening at the Gala, embassies that are partnering with us to host a reception, details of the Musical Tribute to Citizen Diplomacy, or when to arrive, you will find the latest information at www.sister-cities.org. Register and get the latest updates online at www.sister-cities.org.



FIND
ALL-THE-LATEST
INFORMATION
ONLINE!

NEWSFLASH!

As the newsletter goes to press, conference registrations are pouring in. We expect registration to fill up before June 23. Check www.sister-cities.org to verify if registration is still open.

Recruit Youth Now International Youth Summit on Global Citizenship

Summer 2006 schedules for young people are already filling - will youth from your community attend the International Youth Summit on Global Citizenship July 11-16, 2006 in Washington, D.C.? Now is the time to recruit youth to attend this amazing conference. Held concurrently with the 50th Anniversary Conference, youth attending the summit will learn how to become effective global citizens in the 21st century. Recruit young people NOW for this event, and register them by **May 15, 2006**. Visit www.sister-cities.org for more information, and click on "Join the Celebration." For more information, contact Bethany Rehling at brehling@sister-cities.org or 202.347.8630 ext. 8252. ♦

WANTED: Youth Perspectives & Ideas on Global Citizenship

SURVEY SEEKS YOUTH INPUT – Today's young people face an interconnected and multicultural world – where global interaction is commonplace. We want to know what young people think about global citizenship. To prepare for the International Youth Summit on Global Citizenship happening this summer in Washington, D.C., we are asking youth to take an online survey. The survey will help us better understand how today's youth view their role in an increasingly globalized society. Survey results will also help us produce more effective and sustainable youth education and leadership programs. A report on this survey will be presented to the International Youth Summit on Global Citizenship in July 2006.

To take the survey, ask your youth to go to www.sister-cities.org and click "Ask Sister City Youth." Questions? Contact Swathi Veeravalli at sveeravalli@sister-cities.org, or 202.347.8630 ext. 4005. ♦





A Step-by-Step Guide

Organize a September Concert

Sister city programs throughout the world are encouraged to join with the September Concert Foundation to mark September 11, 2006 as a day of music and call for a peaceful world. You can be part of this exciting event by holding a free public concert in your community. Use the event to highlight how your sister city program is building a more peaceful world of tolerance and understanding.

1. You Will Need:

- a venue or location for the performance.
- musicians willing to perform free-of-charge.
- volunteers to help with publicity, organization and planning.

2. Get help from your local city government, schools and community groups to see if they will sponsor the event or participate by providing promotional support, space, sound equipment, and financial help. Ask your:

- mayor's office.
- public libraries.
- local Arts Commission or Arts Council.
- music schools.
- universities, community colleges or other educational organizations.
- performing arts groups (orchestras, youth orchestras, choral groups).
- religious organizations.

3. Sister Cities International and the September Concert Foundation will provide:

- a banner you can display at your event.
- templates for flyers, postcards and banners.
- a promotional press release template.

Through the joy of music, you can bring your community together to celebrate life and universal humanity. For more information, contact Swathi Veeravalli at sveeravalli@sister-cities.org or at 202.347.8630 ext. 4005. ♦

PHOTO: Your voice matters. Input from community summits just like this one will be funneled into the National Summit on Citizen Diplomacy being held this summer in Washington, D.C. For more information about community summits or information on filing your community's summit report, contact Emily Carter at 202.347.8630 ext. 4007 or ecarter@sister-cities.org.



A Partnership for Peace:

Sister Cities International & the Coalition for Citizen Diplomacy

Sister Cities International and the Coalition for Citizen Diplomacy (CCD) are changing the way Americans view international diplomacy. They believe that each of us can be a citizen diplomat and that we all hold the power to affect international relations.

The CCD is a group of more than one hundred leading nonprofit, business, academic and exchange organizations in the United States. They are committed to building peace through the active and sustained international engagement of Americans at home and abroad. Sister Cities International is a member of the CCD, and plays a key role in its national campaign to increase the number of Americans engaged in international dialogue, exchanges and activities.

This campaign includes community summits in 2005 and the first quarter of 2006, culminating in a National Summit on Citizen Diplomacy to be held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C. To find how you can host a summit, go to www.sister-cities.org and click on "Toolkits & Guides" in the blue menu, then on "50th Anniversary Toolkit."

To learn more about the CCD, visit www.citizen-diplomacy.org.



Will Your Project Be One of the 50 Featured on www.SupportSisterCities.org?

Do you need to raise funds for a sister city project? Would your donors appreciate the convenience of online giving? Are you willing to publicize your project and direct donors to a website?

Then maybe you should consider featuring your project on www.SupportSisterCities.org as one of the 50 featured during our 50th Anniversary year. Each project will be internationally publicized and highlighted throughout 2006 to help generate funds for your program.

This innovative fundraising website was launched last summer by Sister Cities International to help local sister city organizations raise money for specific projects.

Not only does the site allow you to easily raise funds through the web, but it also lets donors know the positive change their funds accomplish and engages them in the sister city movement. Although there's a registration fee for selected projects, the ease of online giving has opened a new chapter in fundraising for local sister city programs.

To be part of this groundbreaking initiative, contact Danielle Segall at support@sister-cities.org or phone 202.347.8630 ext. 8638.

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A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors for the 50th Anniversary Celebration

The excitement is building. Many corporations and organizations are signing on to sponsor events connected with Sister Cities International's 50th Anniversary Celebration. Recognizing the value of the audience it will draw from around the world, these organizations are saluting the citizen diplomacy movement and those who take part in it.

We are delighted to announce that our sponsors are:

- **American Express** in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Sister Cities International.
- **Citrix Systems, Inc.** will sponsor the Presidential Luncheon.
- **The George Washington University** is a partner and host of the International Youth Summit.
- **Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International** will sponsor the special concert at the Warner Theatre.
- **Harrison Middleton University** is the sponsor of the International Youth Summit and is offering college credit for those attending.
- **Hewlett Packard** is a program sponsor for Sister Schools and will provide scholarships for young people to attend the International Youth Summit on Global Citizenship.
- The **International City/County Management Association Retirement Corporation** is sponsoring the Best Practices Showcase.
- The **International Council of Shopping Centers** will sponsor the Forum on Globalization and Local Economic Development.
- **PADCO | AECOM** is sponsoring the Congressional Luncheon.
- **NYC & Company** is a sponsor for the 50th Anniversary Auction.
- The **Sister Cities Foundation** is once again sponsoring the Lou Wozar Annual Awards Ceremony which will take place at the Warner Theatre.
- Sister Cities International Global Envoy, **Sharon Receveur**, is a sponsor of 50th Anniversary communications.
- **Tropos Networks** will sponsor the Mayor's Roundtable on Innovative Technology & Local Economic Development.
- **United Airlines** is the official airline of the conference and will sponsor the Diplomatic Breakfast.

Change the world
one community at a time

visit SupportSisterCities.org



50th Anniversary Legislative Exchange Initiative

At the March 2, 2006 Executive Committee meeting, Sister Cities International officially called upon the United States Congress to enact a five-year "International Partnership Initiative for Sister City Exchanges" that would provide significant resources to sister city partnerships to undertake exchange programs. Exchanges will be within the following areas: Islamic exchanges, Youth and Education Exchanges, Sustainable Development Exchanges, and Arts and Culture Exchanges.

If successfully passed and funded, this initiative will create 4,280 sister city exchanges each year, totaling 21,400 exchanges over a five-year period. The cost to the federal government is only \$1,286 per exchange, which represents 15% of the cost typically spent through federally funded exchange programs.

We believe this is the kind of bold and creative partnership exchange program, that should be welcomed by both Congress and the Department of State. "At a time when both political parties, both houses of Congress, and the White House and the State Department have identified increasing international exchange opportunities as a "national priority," we are hopeful that this initiative will receive the support it deserves," said Tim Honey, executive director.

For details go to www.sister-cities.org, and click on "Contact Congress About the Sister City Exchange Initiative." Our online legislative advocacy center is very easy to use to send a letter or email to your representative or senator. Only a few minutes of your time can make a huge difference for the citizen diplomacy movement. ♦

If successfully passed and funded, this initiative will create 21,400 exchanges over a five-year period. The cost to the federal government is only \$1,286 per exchange, representing less than 15% of the costs typically spent through existing federally funded exchange programs.



Many Thanks to Our New Donors

Last Quarter 2005: John T. Adams - Richard Andrews - City of Boston - Michael Boulos - Stephen R. Brown - Tara Balfe Clifford - Brad Cole - Larry & Marilyn Dale - Diane J. Edgecomb - Gia V. Taylor Gaspard - Grand Rapids Sister Cities Committee - Bonnie Hamlin - Hank Heubach - Daniel E. Houghton - Gianina Irlando - City of Jacksonville - Shung Kwon Kim - Kimball Hill Homes - Yanjin Lui - Teresa Monserrate - Kanae Nagata - Suzan Y. Neal - Marese Nephew - Sam Nhairy - Maria Papritz - Chong Park - John Raeside, Jr. - Roanoke Valley Sister Cities, Inc. - Joseph & Sibyll Saade - Ingrid Schulze - Seattle Sister Cities - Patricia D. Silver - State of Maryland - Jon W. Stauff - Margo Tarr - Andrew C. Taylor - Teddy Care, Inc. - Doris E. Thompson - Anushka H. Wirasinha

Will You Donate An Auction Item?

Help Us Break Our Fundraising Record!

Are you one of the many people touched by the sister city movement? What better way to show your support and appreciation than to participate in our 50th Anniversary Auctions. In 2005, the silent and online auction raised more than \$34,000. You can help us double that amount and improve support for sister city programs by donating items for the auction. Items auctioned off ranged from unique artwork to luxurious vacations.

Every sister city program is challenged to submit an "Ultimate City Package" to showcase your community and be auctioned off. The "Ultimate City Package" can include a weekend stay at a luxurious hotel, free museum passes, restaurant vouchers and other experiences or items unique to your city. Just a few calls or visits to local hotels, restaurants, and tourist offices is all it will take to show off your city's finest attractions and assemble a fabulous auction item.

The 50th Anniversary Online auction will be run through cMarket online. This easy-to-use site will allow every item to have a picture, description, donor's logo and a link to their website. See a sample at www.sistercities.cmarket.com. *Your donation may be tax deductible (check with your tax advisor). To donate an item contact Viktor Zikas at 202.347.8630 ext. 4875 or vzikas@sister-cities.org.* ♦

You CAN SUPPORT
Sister Cities International
Right Now.

Go to www.sister-cities.org
And Click on *Donate Now*

HOW TO FORM HEALTHY PARTNERSHIPS

To Partner or Not To Partner? *THAT* Is the Question!



Partnerships – you can't live with them, you can't live without them. Learn in this article how to form and maintain healthy partnerships to benefit your sister city program.

Strong partnerships with other organizations can help you expand programs, raise more money, increase your volunteer base, and give you an important outlet for sharing ideas and adapting to change.

But few things can cause more strain on a sister cities program than a partnership that sours. A partnership that goes awry can leave in its wake burned out volunteers, promises unfulfilled, and a bad taste in everyone's mouth.

Partnerships thrive when they are given the resources they need to be successful. Partnerships do not support themselves. They need attention, time, energy, and in some cases a little money, to make them successful.

Be strategic. Target your efforts to form partnerships around shared interests and needs. If you need volunteers, talk to a group that has a large membership. If you need funds for a project to send wheelchairs to your sister city, talk to another organization that has an interest in humanitarian aid.

Narrow down your partnership possibilities. Everyone has attended a committee meeting where someone rattles off a long list of "potential partners," but does not want to do the work to maintain those partnerships and contacts. The possibilities for partnership can be endless. Knowing which ones to go after and thinking through how best to accomplish your goals through partnerships will help. You may be better off with a few focused partnerships with key organizations in your community, than "paper partnerships" with every nonprofit in town.

Check your priorities and resources before forming a new partnership. Here are some important questions every sister cities program should ask before investing the time and energy necessary to pull off a partnership:

1. *Why do you want to form this partnership?*
 - a. Do you want to expand an existing program?
 - b. Do you want to start a new program?
 - c. Do you need help rebuilding your program or organization?
 - d. Is there a person in your organization who will commit to being a contact for the partnership?
 - e. Is there a person in the partnering organization who will commit to being a contact for the partnership?
2. *Do the goals and objectives of your program match the goals and objectives of the partner?*
 - a. Is there a prior relationship between members of both organizations?
 - b. What types of activities does your partner do, or plan to do, that complement your own program's activities?
3. *Will the partnership benefit your organization's members? How?*
4. *What specific outcomes will the partnership achieve?*
 - a. Do you have a vision for what the partnership can achieve?
 - b. Does the partnering organization agree with this vision?
 - c. How will you measure success?

Get it in writing. It is often helpful to outline the answers to these questions, discuss them with your partner, and then create a document that summarizes the key areas where you will collaborate. If money or the significant investment of resources is required, then it is often best to get a signed agreement up front in writing about the funding arrangement.

Continued next page.



Sister Cities Partner Up for the Hollywood Christmas Parade

By Caroline Schweich

Highlighting all of your sister city partnerships can yield publicity dividends. Just talk to the Los Angeles Sister Cities Association about the annual Hollywood Christmas Parade. Last year they organized a float representing the 21 sister cities of Los Angeles, headed by Association president, Council member Tom LaBonge. Over a million people lined the streets of Tinseltown to watch this star-studded parade and saw the sister city association's float. The Los Angeles Sister City Association is already gearing up for another collaborative event – its annual Sister City Festival. Loaded with international food and entertainment, the festival will be held September 24, 2006. The event involved all 21 sister cities and drew more than 10,000 attendees last year. Partnering different types of programs together is also part of LA's recipe for success – a week-long series of international trade seminars will precede the festival.

For more information contact:
Caroline Schweich
323.957.2326
caroline@fizzcommunications.com

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Share, share, share. Sharing is the lifeblood of a partnership. Invite your partners to key organization events. Attend the activities they invite you to. Talk about the projects that excite you, the plans that you have, and any challenges faced day-to-day. If issuing a press release about a partnership, make sure the partners sign off before you send it out.

Partnerships are not just about organizations – they are about people.

Partnerships succeed when individuals in both organizations are committed to achieving the partnership's goals and exploring new opportunities together. Make sure the partnering organization assigns someone to work with you. Know that this person understands the nature of the partnership. You will also want to ensure they understand your organization and how it works.

Sometimes partnerships don't work out. It may be in your best interest to end an existing partnership in order to free up time and resources to work on other opportunities. Often, partnerships do not work out because the individuals involved can't get along or don't see eye to eye. Sometimes the goals or objectives of your partner may change. If you have to end a partnership, try to leave the door open for future collaboration.

Partnership help is only a phone call or email away. The staff at Sister Cities International is here to help you with your program. We are here to offer advice, best practices and share what we have seen work in other communities.

See page 12 for a list of staff members. ♦

Partners for Sustainable Development: Sister Cities International & PADCO|AECOM

What makes a good partnership? An excellent example is the partnership that exists between Sister Cities International and its corporate sponsor – PADCO|AECOM. Sister Cities International formed this partnership in 2004 to help the Sister Cities Network for Sustainable Development.

The partnership helps both organizations. For Sister Cities International, the partnership helps secure project funding for member communities through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). For PADCO|AECOM, the partnership increases sustainability for the USAID projects it administers. Both organizations also share best practices, seek additional funding opportunities together, freely share ideas for potential projects, and develop staff relationships.

New projects in Romania and Southeast Asia. Because of this partnership, Sister Cities International will participate in two projects this year with PADCO|AECOM. One project will be in Romania and focus on local government reform. The other will be in Southeast Asia and concentrate on water, sanitation and regional environmental cooperation. As these projects unfold, there will be opportunities to engage sister city partnerships in Romania, as well as in India, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Viet Nam. As opportunities become available, we will announce them through our website, e-newsletter and direct e-mails to individual members.

Network membership has its benefits. Both of these projects will be administered through the Sister Cities Network for Sustainable Development. We encourage your sister city program to join the Network. You will you be eligible to apply for grants administered by the Network, and have the opportunity to interact with other sister cities working on similar programs.

For more information on the Network or about our partnership with PADCO|AECOM, contact Matthew Corso at 202.347.8630 ext. 8636 or mcorso@sister-cities.org. ♦

As these projects unfold, there will be opportunity to engage sister city partnerships in Romania, as well as in India, Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.

Global Envoy Program Partners in Spreading the Sister City Mission

"The Global Envoy Program is a work in progress," said Sharon Receveur, Sister Cities International's newest Global Envoy. She joins Nancy Huppert and Mary Palko. Global Envoys are asked to represent Sister Cities International in the United States and internationally at conferences, embassies, and other venues. "It's an opportunity to spread our mission in parts of the world that can't be covered by our Sister Cities International staff," said Receveur. "It's a good deal for Sister Cities International because the Global Envoys are volunteers who pay their own way when working on behalf of the sister city movement, and they also make significant monetary contributions to Sister Cities International."



PHOTO: Global Envoy Sharon Receveur (left) smiles during the 2004 Annual Conference in Fort Worth with Sherman Banks, president of the Board of Directors of Sister Cities International and Mary Jean Eisenhower, president and CEO of People to People International. "We greatly appreciate the help and support of our Global Envoys," said Tim Honey, executive director.

For more information about the Global Envoy program, contact Tim Honey at 202.347.8630 or thoney@sister-cities.org.

Open Your Classroom to the World – *Adopt a Sister School!*

Sister Cities International and the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) are joining efforts to bring global learning and cooperation into classrooms worldwide. The partnership reaches across 132 countries and can match any teacher in the United States with a classroom anywhere in the world.

“Through the Internet, students and teachers have the opportunity to go beyond international simulations and engage directly with students in other countries,” said iEARN-USA director, Edwin Gragert. “Students have the opportunity to both learn and teach through direct interaction, enabling them to gain knowledge about new topics and the ability to work with other cultures. These are important 21st century skills.”

During the program’s launch year, iEARN-USA will offer partial scholarships to members of Sister Cities International to access iEARN’s global learning resources and tools. For only \$50, a teacher will have access to thousands of projects around the world, as well as curriculum and professional development resources. An entire Sister School can get the benefits of iEARN-USA membership for only \$180 through this partnership.

To learn more, go to www.sister-cities.org and click on “Adopt a Sister School” or contact Danielle Segall at 202.347.8630 ext. 8638 or dsegall@sister-cities.org ♦

Partners in Youth Exchange Sister Cities International-AYUSA Partnership for Youth Exchange

One of the most exciting youth exchange programs available to sister city programs is the Sister Cities International - AYUSA Partnership for Youth Exchange.

This partnership provides Sister Cities International members with many opportunities, including:

- hosting AYUSA students from your sister cities.
- accessing scholarships for study abroad programs.
- joining the AYUSA team to enrich your community through actively hosting exchange students.
- participating in U.S. Department of State sponsored exchange program opportunities, such as Linking Individuals, Knowledge, and Culture program (LINC).

Through the LINC program, sister city programs in Toledo, Ohio and Tucson, Arizona hosted students from the Middle East for a four-week exchange program. “The partnership...has helped reinvigorate our local sister city program. It has given us greater national and international recognition due to AYUSA’s strong reputation,” said Jesse Torrence, former executive director of Sister Cities Toledo.



PHOTO: Our partnership with AYUSA can help your sister city program expand its youth programs.

“Being involved is a wonderful reminder of how widespread the international youth exchange movement is. It is very inspiring to see how committed people are working together to spread global understanding,” said Torrence. “Working with AYUSA has been like joining a big family. This partnership has enhanced our sense of connectedness to the world!”

Since 1980, AYUSA International has promoted global learning and leadership through its high school exchange programs. It also serves as a grantee of the U.S. Department of State and offers exciting new exchange initiatives to the world. AYUSA International signed a partnership with Sister Cities International in 2003.

For more information on the Sister Cities International – AYUSA Partnership for Youth Exchange visit www.sister-cities.org, click on “Programs,” then “Youth & Education” in the blue menu on the left.

To learn more, contact Bethany Rehling at brehling@sister-cities.org ♦





50 Wheelchairs, 50 Communities for the 50th Anniversary Year

Special Wheelchairs for Peace Initiative for China & Latin America

As we celebrate 50 years of citizen diplomacy in 2006, Sister Cities International is pleased to announce a special initiative that will send 2,500 wheelchairs around the globe in the name of peace and understanding. And your sister city program can be part of it!



"We need 50 sister city programs to volunteer to join this initiative."

The "50th Anniversary Wheelchairs for Peace Initiative" will send 2,500 wheelchairs to China, Latin America, and other developing countries around the world.

Our goal is to raise \$150,000 in funds by the end of 2006. We need 50 sister city programs to volunteer to join this initiative. You can raise funds to send 50 wheelchairs to your sister city

through this initiative. Each wheelchair will cost only \$60-\$75 (note: in the United States, a brand new wheelchair costs over \$350, so this is quite a bargain), depending on the country. For your sister city program, that would mean a commitment of \$3,000-\$3,750.

More than 100 million people worldwide need wheelchairs but cannot afford one. What would be your life be like, if you had to sit at home because you couldn't walk or get to work? What would your community life be like if disabled people could not take an active role? Joining this initiative will provide the gift of mobility to fifty people in your sister city. Imagine the impact of fifty changed lives in your sister city – and then you will know what this program holds the power to do.

You can even plan special events with your sister city to celebrate the delivery of the wheelchairs you are sponsoring and meet the recipients in person. Each participating sister city program will receive a special 50th Anniversary Certificate of Recognition and this program will be featured during the Best Practices Showcase at the 50th Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C.

To find out how your community can get involved, contact Arisha Dmitrieva, Wheelchairs for Peace Coordinator, at 202.347.8630 ext. 4874 or admitrieva@sister-cities.org. You can also visit www.sister-cities.org and click on "Programs," then "Humanitarian Assistance" in the blue menu on the left. ♦



Wheelchairs for Peace Chicago Heights, Illinois and Wadowice, Poland

Hearts are warmer and spirits brighter in Wadowice, Poland, thanks to the generosity of their sister city Chicago Heights, Illinois.

Through the "Wheelchairs for Peace" program, Chicago Heights sent 183 wheelchairs to disabled residents in their sister city. Several members of the Chicago Heights-Wadowice Sister City Committee and the project's chairperson, Eugene Sadus, traveled to Wadowice for the ceremony distributing the wheelchairs.

They saw firsthand the joy and excitement on the faces of adults, teens and children as they each received their very own wheelchair. Matching funds for the project were provided by the Wheelchair Foundation in Danville, California, through its "Wheelchairs for Peace" partnership with Sister Cities International.

Organizers say the hard work was worth it. "The wheelchairs symbolize a gift of joy that will forever transform their lives," said Sadus. "I will never regret the day that I accepted responsibility for this endeavor. Our mission has been accomplished!"

PHOTO: At Left - Eight-year-old Arkadiusz Warchal of Wadowice, Poland, beams with joy as he receives a wheelchair for the first time. He is accompanied by his father and Eugene Sadus, chairperson of the "Wheelchairs for Peace" project in Chicago Heights. ♦

Contact Us



How to Contact the Sister Cities International Staff

If you have questions about Sister Cities International programs, the international team is here to help. Call 202.347.8630 to speak with our staff.

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