

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEDIA CONTACT:
Megha Swamy
mswamy@sister-cities.org
202-347-8637

**Greater Fort Lauderdale wins *Sister Cities International's*
Innovation: Youth & Education Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities International has won *Sister Cities International's* 2011 Innovation: Youth & Education Award for a city with population between 100,001 and 500,000. The Innovation awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

Greater Fort Lauderdale won for its Helping Our Nations Empowering Youth Project (HONEY Project), an international economic development project that produces social entrepreneurs working to alleviate global poverty. There are four HONEY Project initiatives designed to impact social issues in the areas of youth empowerment, poverty alleviation and the environment:

- The HONEY Project Academy provides social entrepreneurship training and real-time invaluable business experience combined with mentoring and continuing education.
- The HONEY Project Global Outreach initiative addresses social and economic disparities in emerging nations.
- HONEY Project xChange is a cultural and educational exchange program for aspiring change agents featuring inbound and outbound missions to emerging nations.
- HONEY Project Invest will provide microloans to young people and incubate their business in an effort to help them build sustainable and self-sufficient companies.

Since its conception in 2006, the HONEY Project has successfully evolved into a comprehensive global project engaging youth across the US and the world. Hundreds of students from US have graduated from the HONEY Project Academy. Four alumni have established and incorporated individual businesses in the State of Florida. Globally, the HONEY Project has now been introduced to young people in Ghana, Taiwan, Colombia and Italy.

The *Sister Cities International* Annual Awards are awarded in several categories. Award winners will be honored at a special luncheon ceremony on July 14 during the *Sister Cities International* 56th Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

About *Sister Cities International*

Sister Cities International facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. *Sister Cities International* represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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