
**SUFFOLK SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S
BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC – Suffolk Sister Cities International (SSCI) has won Sister Cities International's 2015 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 50,001 and 100,000. The 2015 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2014 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

During 2014, Suffolk Sister Cities International hoped to encourage people to explore the world around them, discovering new viewpoints and learning about themselves, then incorporate new insights into their home environments, bringing a broader, more informed outlook to life. The result was that SSCI did its own growing and exploring, expanding their sister city program even further.

Some of their achievements included hosting several events and programs including a Venetian Carnevale fundraising event, a graduate student intern from Italy to experience a U.S. business environment, an After Hours Business Social to teach the community about sister cities, a Million Steps Challenge parallel event between Suffolk, Virginia and Suffolk, United Kingdom, a fundraiser resulting in \$10,000 for a medical nonprofit through Project Peanut Butter, a U.S.-U.K. jazz student swing concert, Summer Italian Youth Exchange, and more.

SSCI's success can be attributed to planning, strong committee work involving outstanding volunteers, collaboration with other local organizations, and financial support from sponsors and foundations.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, July 18 during Sister Cities International's 59th Annual Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Sister Cities International 59th Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders to Minneapolis, Minnesota to discuss, "Building Generations for Peace." Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2015 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: www.SisterCitiesConference.org.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 545 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in over 2,100 communities in 145 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

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