



BUILDING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS AROUND THE WORLD

A Dynamic Global Network
Promoting Cultural Understanding

Islamic Partnership Initiative Program Models Report

Compiled by Jennifer Oliver
October 2007

*Sister Cities International mission is
to promote peace through mutual respect,
understanding, & cooperation –
one individual, one community at a time.*

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**Programs may be cross-referenced under several applicable categories*

INTRODUCTION

Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities. We strive to build global cooperation at the municipal level, promote cultural understanding and stimulate economic development.

Sister Cities International is a leader of local community development and volunteer action. We motivate and empower private citizens, municipal officials and business leaders to conduct long-term sister city programs that involve two-way communication and should mutually benefit partnering communities.

In order to secure a more peaceful future, Sister Cities International, through its Islamic Partnership Initiative, seeks to provide U.S. communities and communities in the Muslim world opportunities for positive direct engagement and foster better understanding. Sister Cities International is in a unique position to play a vital role in bridging the gap between the Muslim world and the West through the "citizen diplomacy" movement.

The goal of the Islamic Partnership Initiative is to:

- Strengthen the existing Sister Cities partnerships between the U.S. and Muslim world and form new partnerships.
- Demonstrate through these Sisters Cities partnerships that mutual respect, understanding and cooperation can be built and sustained between the United States and the Muslim world.
- Tell the remarkable stories of these partnerships and programs to help inform and educate the American public about the positive impact of citizen diplomacy.

This Islamic Partnership Initiative program report was developed as a resource for members and the general public as a snapshot of existing and developing sister city relationships in the Muslim world. The 89 program models in this report were gathered from existing partnership websites, 2007 survey responses, Sister Cities International archives and additional follow-up conversations. By January 1, 2008, this will be information searchable on the 'Tell Your Sister City Story' section of the Sister Cities International website (<http://www.sister-cities.org/icrc/icrc-search/innovation>). Visitors will be able to search by program type and by country and region.

This report is made possible in part by funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Any corrections, additional descriptions, or new program models should be sent to:

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ARTS AND CULTURE

Type of program: Youth /Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Baltimore, Maryland

International Community: Luxor & Alexandria, Egypt

Program Description:

The Baltimore-Luxor-Alexandria Sister Cities Committee partnered with an art museum in Baltimore to create a youth art contest. Local youth were invited to submit artwork portraying Egypt in any form to the art museum for display and competition. The project encourages youth to learn about Egypt and think about what the country means to them.

Website: <http://www.baltimoreegypt.org/>

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Baltimore, Maryland

International Community: Luxor & Alexandria, Egypt

Program Description:

The Baltimore-Luxor-Alexandria Sister Cities Committee formed a Baltimore Friends of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Association. The Friends Association works to restore the ancient Bibliotheca Alexandrina to a world-class learning institution. The Friends Association holds fundraisers and events to raise money for the library. Book drives are held to send books to Alexandria. Staff of the Bibliotheca Alexandria can participate in internships in Baltimore libraries, and Baltimore professionals are invited to volunteer time at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. The Friends Association also holds lectures and seminars about the library's long and distinguished history.

Website: <http://www.baltimoreegypt.org/Library.htm>

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Environmental

U.S. Community: Wilmington, Delaware

International Community: Osogbo, Nigeria

Program Description:

Sister Cities of Wilmington, Inc. maintains five flower gardens in Wilmington State Park, Delaware. These unique gardens celebrate the friendship and association of Wilmington and its 5 sister cities of Kalmar, Sweden; Watford, England; Fulda, Germany; Osogobo, Nigeria and Olevano sul Tusciano, Italy. Each of the 5 gardens is dedicated to one of the sister cities, and the flower display, which is replanted each spring, represents the colors of the respective sister cities' national flags.

Website: <http://www.sistercitieswilmington.org/>

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Houston, Texas

International Community: Baku, Azerbaijan; Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (and other Houston sister cities)

Program Description:

The Sister Cities World's Fare at the Houston International Festival introduces Houstonians to the cultures of Houston's seventeen sister cities. The wine tent provides an opportunity to enjoy snacks and beverages while watching the performances on the Sister Cities of Houston stage. Past performances have included professional artists from Baku, Azerbaijan and a country western singer from Perth, Australia. Performances of local artists perform highlight the cultures of other sister cities, including (but not limited to): Abu Dhabi, Shenzhen, Stavanger, and Tampico.

Website: http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.org/wp/?page_id=113

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: New York, New York

International Community: Cairo, Egypt and other New York global partners

Program Description:

In 2005, the Sister City Program of the City of New York, Inc. hosted a one-and-a-half day Summit titled "Strategies for Public Art". In collaboration with the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and with assistance provided by the Public Art Fund, the Summit was the first international conference to focus on the municipal challenges of public art. Nine of New York's ten Sister Cities: Beijing, Budapest, Cairo, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, London, Madrid, Rome, and Tokyo sent delegations that included public officials responsible for public art, leaders in the public art field from the private sector and from local cultural institutions, and also artists with public art experience. The Summit explored the approaches and innovations some cities have developed to meet these challenges, and noted the range of issues facing New York City and the Sister cities. For all participants, the Summit provided an opportunity to share best practices and strategies for success.

Website: http://www.nyc.gov/html/unccp/scp/html/summit/art_summit.shtml

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Surabaya, Indonesia

Program Description:

The Seattle-Surabaya Sister City committee organized an Indonesian Street Fair in the City of Seattle. Approximately 1,500 people attended throughout the day to enjoy Indonesian cultural exhibits on dancing, traditional instru-

ments, business opportunities, art activities for children, and foods. Members from both the Christian and Muslim communities worked together to make this program a success and to help educate the local Seattle citizenry.

Website: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/oir/Surabaya.htm>

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

The Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities invited the Kazakh national folk ensemble to Tucson in January, 2005 to participate in the Tucson Family Arts Festival. In 2008, exchanges of boys' choirs will occur between Tucson and Almaty.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Arts and Culture (Film)/Economic Development

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

Fifteen years of progressively active sister city programming showed itself in April of 2005 when the Mayor of Almaty, Kazakhstan wrote a letter to the Mayor of Tucson and invited him to submit entries into a new International Film Festival which was based on Almaty's sister city relationships around the world. The Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee was given the task of investigating and, if deemed beneficial and feasible, to seek entries from local cinematographers. A call to the community went out and two entries were received and submitted to be juried in Almaty. One of the two was chosen to compete in the

Short Film category. The Tucson cinematographers, David and Cynthia Wing, traveled to Almaty and enjoyed 11 days of Kazakhstani hospitality, taught master classes in film technology and networked with film makers from Egypt, England, France, Russia, Turkey and others, 26 in all. The Tucson-Almaty Sister City Committee continues to practice Citizen Diplomacy through education, culture and economic development.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Los Angeles, California

International Community: Beirut, Lebanon

Program Description:

A local college sponsored the "Ambassadors of Harmony" event, featuring Lebanese and American classical musicians.

Website: <http://www.labeirut.org/files/NDUECCConcertFlyer.pdf>

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Education

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

Over the years, the many ethnically Kazakh visitors that have come to Tucson through programs initiated by the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee have always expressed deep interest in our Native American communities in Arizona. An understanding of the concept of shared ancestry of the tribes from Mongolia and our Native American Tribes was developed and the need to pursue the matching of our cultures became a priority project aim of this committee. In 2004, three ethnically Kazakh jewelry

artisans were brought to Tucson in an economic development outreach program. They returned again in January of 2005, to participate in the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. At that time, the Kazakh Artisans invited our committee to participate in an exhibition in Almaty in November of 2005. Furthermore, they requested that we specifically select Native American artisans to go. They were very interested in the Navajo jewelry tradition that they discovered here. A call for participants was made, and Dennison and Theda Tsosie left Tucson for Almaty. Dennison is a Navajo Silversmith as well as a medicine man/healer and had strong feelings about his ancestry. During their time in Almaty, they conducted workshops, master classes and lectures on the Navajo traditions. Dennison was also involved with a Kazakh Shaman in presenting the spiritual blessings given at the opening of the Exhibition.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Program Description:

The Seattle-Tashkent Peace Park Project was an idea to create a park site, one and a half acres in size, to commemorate peace. Thousands of people and corporations gave financial and in-kind donations for the park. Seattle citizens, ranging from children to adults, designed 10,000 tiles celebrating peace that were laid in the park. Volunteers from all over the United States traveled to Uzbekistan to assist in building the park alongside Uzbek volunteers. A Seattle sculptor created a special sculpture depicting totem poles of the Pacific Northwest for the park. The building of this park gained local, national and international attention.

Website: <http://www.seattle-tashkent.org/>

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Program Description:

The Seattle-Tashkent Association sponsors the annual Novruz or first day of spring celebration. The 2007 celebration included traditional foods, speeches, dancing, and music. Uzbek dancing was performed by visiting Uzbek Fulbright program participant, Sitora Khatomova. Central Asian dancing was by Emiko. A wonderful Uzbek puppet show was provided by Sanobar Khotamova, visiting Uzbek Fulbright participant at the University of Washington, and her sister, dancer Sitora Khatomova.

Website: <http://www.seattle-tashkent.org/>

Type of program: Youth/Arts and Culture/Education

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

American students in Tucson created short videos documenting their lives and activities to send to their sister school in Almaty. The Almaty students responded by creating their own videos about life in Kazakhstan. The Sister City Committee has also organized several high school exchanges and sponsored students from Kazakhstan to attend universities in Arizona.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Kansas City, Missouri

International Community: Freetown, Sierra Leone

Program Description:

The Sister City Association of Kansas City-Freetown hosted a Sierra Leone Culture Day. Highlights of the event included 'A short history of Sierra Leone' by Dr. Sylvia Ojukutu Macauley, traditional Sierra Leonean food sampling, a display of Sierra Leonean culture, costumes, artifacts and more.

Website: <http://www.kcsistercities.org/articles/FreetownFlyer906.pdf>

Type of program: Arts and Culture (American Corners)/ Education

U.S. Community: Various

International Community: Various

Program Description:

American corners provide access to information about the United States through book and magazine collections, videos and DVDs, CDs, and local programming. Several U.S. sister city committees have sent materials to their sister city for the establishment of American Corners. The sister cities work together to identify a host location for the American Corner; the corner may be in a library, university, school or cultural center. U.S. communities can fundraise and collect donations to send materials for the American Corner. The U.S. embassy in-country may be able to provide additional support or resources for the American Corner.

Website: http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/How_to_find_a_Sister_Library

Type of program: Arts and Culture (Sister Libraries)/ Education/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Various

International Community: Various

Program Description:

A Sister Libraries program offers a great opportunity for sister cities to exchange information and materials, collaborate for special events, educate the community about another culture, raise the library's international visibility, and offer opportunities for library staff to learn more about the international library profession. The American Library Association suggests many activities that can be part of a Sister Libraries program:

- Promote awareness of the library and its international "reach."
- Exchange information between libraries.
- Improve access to published information in both countries.
- Raise awareness of issues and needs facing libraries in various countries.
- Offer opportunities to learn more about a region or country represented by an immigrant group in your community.
- Share techniques and technologies to help solve problems.
- Broaden both your own and your staff's view of the library profession.
- Increase staff and community knowledge of other cultures.
- Increase diversity of interaction between professionals.
- Share strengths through exchange of resources and expertise.
- Address weaknesses by providing resources, training and exposure.

Website: http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/How_to_find_a_Sister_Library

Type of program: Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

Chicago Sister Cities co-hosted “Fashions of Arabia” in which more than 60 traditional costumes representing 22 Middle Eastern countries were modeled by local high school and college students from the greater Chicagoland Arab-American community. The Jordanian costumes were even modeled by Jordanian-American students.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Education/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

The Amman Cultural Committee has been working closely with the Chicago Children’s Museum and the Amman Children’s Museum to create a mutually beneficial partnership with exchange of ideas and expertise. With full support from the Chicago Children’s Museum and Her Majesty Queen Rania, staff from the Chicago museum will, throughout the coming year, be supporting the staff in Amman by providing educational/staff training, program and exhibit development, and even assist in the creation of a mobile museum to help reach underprivileged children throughout Jordan.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Youth/Education/Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Casablanca, Morocco

Program Description:

March 7th through the 13th was designated Chicago Week in Casablanca, and Monday morning began with a conference comparing the educational systems of Morocco, Chicago and the United States. The conference was attended by Casablangans from various branches of Moroccan educational institutions, members of the education subcommittee of the Casablanca Committee, and many visiting delegates from Chicago. The President of Hassan II University opened the conference and welcomed all participants. Presentations by the Vice President of Hassan II and the Dean of the Faculty of Law focused on the organization of the Moroccan educational system and on the reform efforts currently underway at all levels of that system. The Vice President of Al Akhawayne University, a private school, explained their system of private higher education.

The afternoon brought delegates to the Superior Institute of Commerce and Enterprise Administration (ISCAE) for a tour of its beautiful facility and a visit with the Director, students and faculty. Delegates were very impressed with the high level of preparation these students are receiving - and achieving - with the aim of increasing Morocco’s participation in the international business community.

Additional visits were made during the week to a number of other educational institutions, such as Al Jisr Association, an organization that has been instrumental throughout Morocco in creating partnerships between public schools and private organizations. Al Jisr has focused particularly in creating these relationships with pre-schools and primary schools in order to bring more resources to bear in the early years of children’s education and to ensure the attainment of basic literacy skills at those levels.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/news.php?newsid=103>

ACCESSIBILITY

Type of program: Youth/Arts and Culture/Education

U.S. Community: Houston, Texas

International Community: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Program Description:

The Houston Sister Cities Committee reached out to elementary schools by having them participate in the Houston International Festival in April. Abu Dhabi was represented by third graders from Hobby Elementary, leading the Children's Parade that opened the festival. The two boys and two girls who carried the Abu Dhabi banner were appropriately dressed in authentic outfits from the UAE. Prior to the event, two board members visited the school to present a talk-and-slide show and introduce Abu Dhabi to the marchers.

Website: <http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.org/abudhabi.htm>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Type of program: Humanitarian (Medical)/Disabilities/Health Care

U.S. Community: Pleasant Hill, California

International Community: Merzifon, Turkey

Program Description:

The project was a three-way partnership. The Pleasant Hill Rotary Club (representing Rotary International), Friends of Merzifon (representing Sister Cities International), and the Wheelchair Foundation joined forces to raise money for 280 wheelchairs for the disabled and handicapped people in the city of Merzifon.

A sturdy and practical wheelchair, especially manufactured for the Wheelchair Foundation, costs \$150. By raising \$21,000 locally, Pleasant Hill Rotary and Friends of Merzifon qualified for matching funds from the Wheelchair Foundation. Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar in Walnut Creek hosted a luncheon for \$75 per person, with all proceeds being donated to this project — a huge jump-start for the fundraising effort.

The Wheelchair Foundation shipped a container of 280 wheelchairs to Istanbul from where it was transported overland by truck to Merzifon. Thanks to the contacts of Rotary International and Sister Cities International, no dock fees, customs duties, storage charges, or import taxes were assessed on the shipment.

A major ceremony was held to initiate the distribution. Locally, volunteers from the Disabled and Handicapped Society of Merzifon organized the distribution. During the distribution ceremony, a twelve-year-old handicapped boy read a poem he wrote about being handicapped.

Website: http://www.friendsofmerzifon.org/wheelchair_delivery.html

Type of program: Arts and Culture (Film)/Economic Development

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

Fifteen years of progressively active sister city programming showed itself in April 2005 when the Mayor of Almaty, Kazakhstan wrote a letter to the Mayor of Tucson and invited him to submit entries into a new International Film Festival which was based on Almaty's sister city relationships around the world. The Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee was given the task of investigating and, if deemed beneficial and feasible, to seek entries from local cinematographers. A call to the community went out and two entries were received and submitted to be juried in Almaty. One of the two was chosen to compete in the Short Film category. The Tucson cinematographers, David and Cynthia Wing, traveled to Almaty and were treated to 11 days of Kazakhstani hospitality, taught master classes in film technology and rubbed elbows with film makers from Egypt, England, France, Russia, Turkey and others, 26 in all. The Tucson-Almaty Sister City Committee practices Citizen Diplomacy through education, culture and economic development.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Economic Development (Trade)

U.S. Community: St. Louis, Missouri

International Community: Bogor, Indonesia

Program Description:

The St. Louis-Bogor Sister Cities Committee organized an Indonesian Business Seminar and Market Meeting at the World Trade Center in St. Louis. Attendees learned about the current business climate in Indonesia and participated in market meetings to examine the following sectors:

Electric Power, Renewable Resources, Tourism, Information Technology, and AgriBusiness. Partners included: City of St. Louis, Indonesian Consulate General, St. Louis Center for International Relations, St. Louis County and the World Trade Center-Saint Louis.

Website: http://www.slcir.org/bogor_indonesia/

Type of program: Economic Development (Networking)

U.S. Community: Houston, Texas

International Community: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Program Description:

For the past five years, the Abu Dhabi Sister City organization has hosted/co-hosted a breakfast during Houston's annual Offshore Technology Conference. The guest list grows larger each year as word of the committee's "Southern hospitality" has spread. More than 100 delegates from Abu Dhabi and other Middle Eastern countries awoke early to both enjoy good food and to participate in this fabulous opportunity to network.

Website: <http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.org/abudhabi.htm>

Type of program: Education/Technology

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Sulaimaniah, Iraq

Program Description:

The first exchange brought two professors focused on crop sciences from the University of Sulaimaniah to the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) to participate in a short course focused on crop production, engineering, marketing, pest management, and environmental control. The two universities

signed and finalized a Memorandum of Understanding, committing them to continued student and faculty exchanges.

Website: <http://www.sister-cities.org/HumanitarianAssistance/Iraqinitiative>

Type of program: Youth/Arts and Culture/Education

U.S. Community: Houston, Texas

International Community: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Program Description:

The Houston Sister Cities Committee reached out to elementary schools by having them participate in the Houston International Festival in April. Abu Dhabi was represented by third graders from Hobby Elementary, leading the Children's Parade that opened the festival. The two boys and two girls who carried the Abu Dhabi banner were appropriately dressed in authentic outfits from the UAE. Prior to the event, two board members visited the school to present a talk-and-slide show and introduce Abu Dhabi to the marchers.

Website: <http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.org/abudhabi.htm>

Type of program: Economic Development

U.S. Community: Berkeley, California

International Community: Uma Bawang, Malaysia*

** This community is a non-Muslim community within a Muslim majority country.*

Program Description:

This program aims to reduce poverty by helping communities achieve economic self-reliance through the development of income-generating models. In an approach that

integrates traditional skills and economies with modern business practices, the program assists local artisans in the development of business plans and cooperative enterprises while working to expand international markets for fair-trade indigenous arts. With a focus on women's participation and economic development, the project provides seed grants and training for microenterprise opportunities such as fish ponds, rice banks, rattan farms, organic community gardens and livestock rearing. The project also supports cross-cultural Reality Tour exchanges for international travelers.

Website: <http://borneoproject.org/>

Type of program: Economic Development

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

On October 15,, 2007, eight representatives from Chicago, Illinois traveled to Amman, Jordan for a five-day visit. The visit was organized by the American Chamber of Commerce in Jordan and the Chicago Sister Cities Program. The delegates included representatives from the business, education, IT, and industrial sectors. The main objective of the trip was to encourage business ventures between Illinois based and Jordanian investors. Eighty Jordanian professionals attended the conference. The conference discussed recent economic growth between the U.S. and Jordan. It also addressed educational partnerships and the American delegates visited some of Jordan's top-learning institutions including: University of Jordan, Princess Sumaya University for Science and Technology and the Higher Council of Science and Technology.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman§ion=Amman>

EDUCATION

Type of program: Education/Trilateral Partnership
(Palestinian-Israeli-U.S. Sister Cities)

U.S. Community: Burlington, Vermont

International Community: Bethlehem, Palestinian Authority, Arad, Israel

Program Description:

The Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad committee hosted “Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision” in Burlington for a speaking engagement. This program, sponsored by Partners for Peace, brings together three women from the Jerusalem area to speak about their experiences and vision for peace as women of different faiths and national groups. The women tour the country. Communities who are interested in inviting the “Jerusalem Women Speak” program to visit their community should contact Partners for Peace.

Website: http://www.partnersforpeace.org/jerusalem_more.shtml

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Education/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

The Amman Cultural Committee has been working closely with the Chicago Children’s Museum and the Amman Children’s Museum to create a mutually beneficial partnership with exchange of ideas and expertise. With full support from the Chicago Children’s Museum and Her Majesty Queen Rania, staff from the Chicago museum will, throughout the coming year, be supporting the staff in

Amman by providing educational/staff training, program and exhibit development, and even assist in the creation of a mobile museum to help reach underprivileged children throughout Jordan. This will not only allow for the development of a great partnership, but will also provide the opportunity for both sides to experience the different cultures of the wonderful cities of Chicago and Amman.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Arts and Culture (Sister Libraries)/Education/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Various

International Community: Various

Program Description:

A Sister Libraries program offers a great opportunity for sister cities to exchange information and materials, collaborate for special events, educate the community about another culture, raise the library’s international visibility, and offer opportunities for library staff to learn more about the international library profession. The American Library Association suggests many activities that can be part of a Sister Libraries program:

- Promote awareness of the library and its international “reach.”
- Exchange information between libraries.
- Improve access to published information in both countries.
- Raise awareness of issues and needs facing libraries in various countries.
- Offer opportunities to learn more about a region or country represented by an immigrant group in your community.
- Share techniques and technologies to help solve problems.
- Broaden both your own and your staff’s view of the library profession.
- Increase staff and community knowledge of other cultures.

- Increase diversity of interaction between professionals.
- Share strengths through exchange of resources and expertise.
- Address weaknesses by providing resources, training and exposure.

Website: http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/How_to_find_a_Sister_Library

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: San Diego, California

International Community: Jalalabad, Afghanistan

Program Description:

San Diego-Jalalabad Sister Cities partners with the Rotary Club to implement programs and activities in Afghanistan. The San Diego-Jalalabad Sister Cities makes a significant difference in Jalalabad education through proactive outreach, through the building and equipping of a K-12 school, and through initiatives with Nangarhar University. After consulting with Afghani government officials and citizens, several Rotarians began moving forward with the establishment of a Jalalabad school. Rotarian and architect Rick Clark designed plans for elementary, middle, and high school phases; all three have been constructed. The school's 6,000 English dictionaries have been distributed to faculty and students. Later, the Afghan school partnered with a San Diego school for a sister schools relationship. The San Diego students raised funds for school supplies for their sister school, and the Jalalabad students sent letters in reply.

The Nangarhar University activities include partnering the university with San Diego State University, enhancing Nangarhar University's English as a Second Language program, and funding a computer lab at the university.

Website: <http://www.sandiegojalalabadsistercities.org/>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Washington, DC

International Community: Dakar, Senegal

Program Description:

The most successful activity of this partnership has been the PADEC activity. The PADEC activity is an English Club in Dakar, Senegal that DC-Dakar Sister Cities has supported for the past 15 years. It started with 20 children and today there are over 600 in the program. The DC committee sends financial support, supplies, computers and books to the English club. The committee also helped to establish a computer center at the English club. Whenever DC delegations visit Dakar, they bring supplies for the club. The DC committee has been able to fundraise for the English club by hosting home tours and dinners at the Embassy of Senegal. The committee also fundraises by holding an African Ambassadors lunch for female ambassadors from Africa. Local citizens can attend the lunch and meet with the female ambassadors.

Website: <http://www.usasc.org/Search/DC-Dakar.html>

Type of program: Arts and Culture (American Corners)/ Education

U.S. Community: Various

International Community: Various

Program Description:

American corners provide access to information about the United States through book and magazine collections, videos and DVDs, CDs, and local programming. Several U.S. sister city committees have sent materials to their sister city for the establishment of American Corners. The sister cities work together to identify a host location for the American Corner; the corner may be in a library, university, school or cultural center. U.S. communities can fundraise and collect donations to send materials for the American Corner. The

U.S. embassy in-country may be able to provide additional support or resources for the American Corner.

Website: http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/How_to_find_a_Sister_Library

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Education

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

Over the years, the many ethnically Kazakh visitors that have come to Tucson through programs initiated by the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities Committee have always expressed deep interest in our Native American communities in Arizona. An understanding of the concept of shared ancestry of the tribes from Mongolia and our Native American Tribes was developed and the need to pursue the matching of our cultures became a priority project aim of this committee. In 2004, three ethnically Kazakh jewelry artisans were brought to Tucson in an economic development outreach program. They returned again in January of 2005, to participate in the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. At that time, the Kazakh Artisans invited our committee to participate in an exhibition in Almaty in November of 2005. Furthermore, they requested that we specifically select Native American artisans to go. They were very interested in the Navajo jewelry tradition that they discovered here. A call for participants was made, and Dennison and Theda Tsosie left Tucson for Almaty. Dennison is a Navajo Silversmith as well as a medicine man/healer and had equally strong feelings about his ancestry. During their time in Almaty, they conducted workshops, master classes and lectures on the Navajo traditions. Dennison was also involved with a Kazakh Shaman in presenting the spiritual blessings given at the opening of the Exhibition.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

The University of Arizona (UA) signed an agreement linking the University with the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The agreement promotes faculty, student and curriculum exchanges between the two universities. UA math professor William Faris, a former Fulbright scholar in Russia, is the faculty sponsor for the new agreement. A partnership was first suggested by an Almaty high school student who was in Tucson as part of an international Sister Cities exchange program. That prompted Jerry Gary, chair of the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities committee, to meet with Kazakhstani university administrators to gauge their interest in a possible relationship. Although Gary got an enthusiastic response, it wasn't until Daulet Kalanov, from Astana, Kazakhstan, became a UA student that the relationship began to move ahead. Kalanov's mother, an employee at the Ministry of Education in Kazakhstan, heard about the meeting from her son and encouraged the Al-Farabi officials to submit a formal request to President Likins.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Long Beach, California

International Community: Izmir, Turkey

Program Description:

Seven Washington Middle School eighth-graders embarked on an overseas journey to attend Space Camp Turkey in the city of Izmir. The trip marks the second year Washington Middle School students have been awarded scholarships from *Global Friendship Through Space Education* to attend the one-week Partner School Science

Program, which aims to expand students' knowledge of math and science and promote cross-cultural understanding through collaborative research and hands-on activities. The students were selected to participate based on their academic success and citizenship.

In preparation for their adventure, the children and their teachers used e-mail and videoconferencing to converse with students of the same age from Gelisim College in Izmir about space-related technologies, as well as what their lives are like in their home countries. During their week at Space Camp Turkey, the students meet the children from Gelisim College and from other countries, share their cultures, and develop friendships formed through a common interest in space. They learn and discuss common global issues regarding space, including sharing of space nations and keeping space clean and safe. They also learn the history of NASA, build and launch rockets, experience flight simulation, and be assigned roles with specific tasks to conduct their own space mission. "Washington Middle School is in a neighborhood of Long Beach that is plagued with violence, drugs, gangs and poverty," says Susan Yamaguchi, business manager for the school. "This trip fulfills a vision of seeing Washington students experience international awareness, exposure to new cultures and peace amongst all people, all while learning about space and science."

The scholarships awarded by GFTSE covered only the one-week camp. Yamaguchi, the students, their parents, Washington science teacher Mark Stone, and Washington student aide Maria Canela conducted fundraising activities throughout the year to earn the needed \$23,000 for airfare and other expenses. One of the most profitable fundraisers was a dinner and silent auction. More than 150 local business and individuals donated items for the auction. Generous contributions were also made by founders of GFTSE and Space Camp Turkey Kaya and Mary Tuncer, Washington math teacher Mario Guillen, Halliburton, the Los Angeles Turkish American Association, the Michael Levy Galleries, and the Los Angeles Super Shuttle.

The newly founded Izmir-Long Beach Sister Cities Association leaders have pledged ongoing support for the Partner School Science Program at Space Camp Turkey. Izmir has been an official sister city to Long Beach since December 2005. The program will be developed to become an integral part of the Izmir Long Beach Sister Cities programs. "The Izmir-Long Beach Sister Cities Association will continue to support the success of the program by motivating, engaging and empowering private citizens, municipal officials and business leaders from Long Beach and the Turkish American community in Southern California," said Dennis Aytakin, president of the Turkish-North American Business Alliance. The students, who were accompanied by science teacher Stone and aide Canela, returned from their trip in July.

Global Friendship Through Space Education is a California-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting friendship through the experience of hands-on space education in a camp environment. By awarding scholarships, GFTSE provides young people with an opportunity to attend a Space Camp program specifically designed for 12- to 16-year-olds. More information visit www.gftse.org. Sister Cities of Long Beach Inc. enjoys eight Sister Cities and one Friendship City relationship with communities around the world, including Izmir, Turkey. It hosts more than 25 international delegations per year and the Annual International Sister City Festival, drawing close to 1,000 attendees.

Website: <http://portfoliolab.org/PORTAL/DesktopModules/ShowArticle.aspx?pld=35&TabId=615&mlid=2524&ItemId=1716>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Fort Worth, Texas

International Community: Bandung, Indonesia

Program Description:

Fort Worth Sister Cities International received a donation of books from the Fort Worth City Library. Fort Worth Sister Cities plan was to donate pre-selected books to our Sister City in Bandung, Indonesia. The books were provided to the City Government of Bandung for distribution to libraries or schools to promote English language training for young readers and students.

Website: <http://fwsistercities.org/about/sistercity/bandung.htm>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

The Chicago Sister Schools program started in 1999 as a partnership between the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and Chicago Sister Cities. All schools in the district are eligible to take part in the program, including non-CPS schools in Chicago. While most Sister Schools relationships in Chicago deal with language, they are currently hoping to expand to include additional academic areas like science, arts and theatre. The education committee is working to develop ties between schools in both cities, including encouraging Arabic language programs in Chicago, through the Sister Schools program. The Amman Committee has established Sister School relationships between Bowen Environmental Studies Team (Best) High School, Thomas Kelly High School and Ferdinand Peck Elementary School in Chicago and Ein Jaloot Comprehensive School for Girls, Ahliyyah School for Girls and Jamil Shaker Secondary School in Amman, respectively. Chicago Sister Cities is very involved in funding these

programs and making sure the partnerships are long-lasting.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Youth/Education/Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Casablanca, Morocco

Program Description:

March 7th through the 13th was designated Chicago Week in Casablanca, and Monday morning began with a conference comparing the educational systems of Morocco, Chicago and the United States. The conference was attended by Casablancans from various branches of Moroccan educational institutions, members of the education subcommittee of the Casablanca Committee, and many visiting delegates from Chicago. The President of Hassan II University opened the conference and welcomed all participants. Presentations by the Vice President of Hassan II and the Dean of the Faculty of Law focused on the organization of the Moroccan educational system and on the reform efforts currently underway at all levels of that system. The Vice President of Al Akhawayne University, a private school, explained their system of private higher education.

The afternoon brought delegates to the Superior Institute of Commerce and Enterprise Administration (ISCAE) for a tour of its beautiful facility and a visit with the Director, students and faculty. Delegates were very impressed with the high level of preparation these students are receiving - and achieving - with the aim of increasing Morocco's participation in the international business community.

Additional visits were made during the week to a number of other educational institutions, such as Al Jisr Association, an organization that has been instrumental throughout Morocco in creating partnerships between public schools

and private organizations. Al Jisr has focused particularly in creating these relationships with pre-schools and primary schools in order to bring more resources to bear in the early years of children's education and to ensure the attainment of basic literacy skills at those levels.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/news.php?newsid=103>

Type of program: Education/Health Care

U.S. Community: Scottsbluff/Gering, Nebraska
International Community: Bamiyan, Afghanistan

Program Description:

Western Nebraska Community College (in Scottsbluff) offered scholarships for Practical Nursing to two women from Bamiyan. They spent approximately two years here and received AA degrees in nursing.

Type of program: Youth/Arts and Culture/Education

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona
International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

American students in Tucson created short videos documenting their lives and activities to send to their sister school in Almaty. The Almaty students responded by creating their own videos about life in Kazakhstan. The Sister City Committee has also organized several high school exchanges and sponsored students from Kazakhstan to attend universities in Arizona.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

ENVIRONMENT

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Environmental

U.S. Community: Wilmington, Delaware
International Community: Osogbo, Nigeria

Program Description:

Sister Cities of Wilmington, Inc. maintains 5 flower gardens in Wilmington State Park, Delaware. These unique gardens celebrate the friendship and association of Wilmington and its 5 sister cities of Kalmar, Sweden; Watford, England; Fulda, Germany; Osogobo, Nigeria and Olevano sul Tusciano, Italy. Each of the 5 gardens is dedicated to one of the sister cities, and the flower display, which is replanted each spring, represents the colors of the respective sister cities' national flags.

Website: <http://www.sistercitieswilmington.org/>

Type of program: Environment (Conservation and land rights)

U.S. Community: Berkeley, California
International Community: Uma Bawang, Malaysia*

** This community is a non-Muslim community within a Muslim majority country.*

Program Description:

This project supports legal aid and community mapping initiatives that enable communities to halt illegal encroachments on their native lands and win restitution for past damages. It offers training in inventory and mapping of ancestral lands, documentation of forest use and management, and legal advocacy to gain formal recognition of indigenous community land rights. In recent years, indigenous communities have won a series of unprecedented victories in court due to mapping initiatives. To date, over 100 communities have been mapped and 70 native

lands rights cases are pending in courts, over half of which still await complete mapping. Current goals are to expand assistance in resource and boundary mapping to fifteen additional communities, which would facilitate protection of close to 250,000 acres. Mapping strategies prioritize both traditional knowledge and culturally appropriate use of technology. The project makes use of geographic information from satellite images to expedite the mapping process.

Website: <http://borneoproject.org/>

HEALTH CARE

Type of program: Humanitarian Assistance/Health Care (Medical)

U.S. Community: Arvada, Colorado

International Community: Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

A team of Arvada volunteers has been aiding the recovery of our sister-city, Kyzylorda since 1999. An official relationship was later approved by the Arvada City Council. The most recent project has resulted in sending two cargo containers of medical supplies and equipment that were surplus or obsolete in the U.S. The value of these supplies is over half a million dollars but in a unique partnership of Arvada organizations and Project C.U.R.E., the only cost was for shipping.

Arvada Sister Cities International partnered with the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Club, the Arvada (evening) Rotary Club, the Arvada Chamber of Commerce, SHARE International, CROSSwalk People Helpers, Spirit of Christ Catholic Community and Faith Bible Chapel as well as a few generous individual donors to raise \$40,000 for shipping.

Website: <http://arvada.org/community/index.php?pid=1265>

Type of program: Education/Health Care

U.S. Community: Scottsbluff/Gering, Nebraska

International Community: Bamiyan, Afghanistan

Program Description:

Western Nebraska Community College (in Scottsbluff) offered scholarships for Practical Nursing to two women from Bamiyan. They spent approximately two years here and received AA degrees in nursing.

Type of program: Humanitarian Assistance/Health Care (Medical)

U.S. Community: Baltimore, Maryland

International Community: Luxor & Alexandria, Egypt

Program Description:

Through a Sister City agreement between Baltimore City and Luxor City in Egypt, The Baltimore-Luxor-Alexandria Sister City Committee (BLASCC) invited Baltimore physicians, nurses and other health care professionals to train and lecture Egyptian health care workers. The U.S. delegates were hosted in the historic city of Luxor, famed for its massive ancient Egyptian temples and the Valley of the Kings and Queens. The Baltimore healthcare professionals stayed for approximately three weeks in Luxor. All expenses except airfare were covered for the visiting professionals. Luxor International Hospital and neighboring health care centers provide BLASCC with a list of requested specialties and subspecialties on an ongoing basis. The health subcommittee endeavors to match as many applicants of various specialties to the requests received from Luxor, and in accordance with the volunteers' availability.

Website: <http://www.baltimoreegypt.org/>

Type of program: Humanitarian (Various)/Health Care

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Program Description:

STSCA has completed a project bringing training on domestic violence to the city of Tashkent, particularly for health professionals and police officials, and would like to extend that work. A partner organization, Orphan Care for Central Asia, has a long history of working with orphanages in Tashkent. The Committee is currently working with Northwest Medical Teams to enhance medical equipment for pediatric hospitals, and develop important

research—such as a birth defects registry—to improve public health care, especially for children.

Website: <http://www.seattle-tashkent.org/>

Type of program: Humanitarian (various)/Health Care

U.S. Community: Tempe, Arizona

International Community: Timbuktu, Mali

Program Description:

The Tempe-Timbuktu committee works on a number of humanitarian and development projects in Timbuktu. The committee has fundraised to drill seven drinking wells in the sister city, they have sent a container of 240 wheelchairs and various medical supplies to Timbuktu, and provided funds for a local Women's Center. The committee also funded two 3-day workshops on female circumcision, nutrition and AIDS. The committee also has an ongoing program to provide goats and sheep to needy families in Timbuktu.

Website: <http://www.tempec.org/>

Type of program: Humanitarian (Medical)/Disabilities/Health Care

U.S. Community: Pleasant Hill, California

International Community: Merzifon, Turkey

Program Description:

The project was a three-way partnership. The Pleasant Hill Rotary Club (representing Rotary International), Friends of Merzifon (representing Sister Cities International), and the Wheelchair Foundation joined forces to raise money for 280 wheelchairs for the disabled and handicapped people in the city of Merzifon.

A sturdy and practical wheelchair, especially manufactured for the Wheelchair Foundation, costs \$150. By raising

\$21,000 locally, Pleasant Hill Rotary and Friends of Merzifon qualified for matching funds from the Wheelchair Foundation. Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar in Walnut Creek hosted a luncheon for \$75 per person, with all proceeds being donated to this project — a huge jump-start for the fundraising effort.

The Wheelchair Foundation shipped a container of 280 wheelchairs to Istanbul from where it was transported overland by truck to Merzifon. Thanks to the contacts of Rotary International and Sister Cities International, no dock fees, customs duties, storage charges, or import taxes were assessed on the shipment.

A major ceremony was held to initiate the distribution. Locally, volunteers from the Disabled and Handicapped Society of Merzifon organized the distribution. During the distribution ceremony, a twelve-year-old handicapped boy read a poem he wrote about being handicapped.

Website: http://www.friendsofmerzifon.org/wheelchair_delivery.html

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Type of program: Humanitarian Assistance

US Community: Dallas, Texas

International Community: Kirkuk, Iraq

Program Description:

Buckner Orphan Care International presented the mayor-governor of Kirkuk in northern Iraq with 7,000 pairs of new children's shoes and 10,000 pairs of socks at BOCI's aid warehouse. The shoes were collected through BOCI's Shoes for Orphan Souls humanitarian aid drive, which has donated more than one million pairs of new shoes to orphans around the world.

Website: <http://www.shoesfororphansouls/>

Type of program: Humanitarian Assistance/Health Care (Medical)

U.S. Community: Arvada, Colorado

International Community: Kyzylorda, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

A team of Arvada volunteers has been aiding the recovery of our sister-city, Kyzylorda since 1999. An official relationship was later approved by the Arvada City Council. The most recent project has resulted in sending two cargo containers of medical supplies and equipment that were surplus or obsolete in the U.S. The value of these supplies is over half a million dollars but in a unique partnership of Arvada organizations and Project C.U.R.E., the only cost was for shipping.

Arvada Sister Cities International partnered with the Arvada Sunrise Rotary Club, the Arvada (evening) Rotary Club, the Arvada Chamber of Commerce, SHARE International,

CROSSwalk People Helpers, Spirit of Christ Catholic Community and Faith Bible Chapel as well as a few generous individual donors to raise \$40,000 for shipping.

Website: <http://arvada.org/community/index.php?pid=1265>

Type of program: Humanitarian Assistance

U.S. Community: Denver, Colorado

International Community: Baghdad, Iraq

Program Description:

The Partnership has carried out a range of humanitarian activities including the “In the Boxes for Baghdad” effort. During this partnership 2,500 school supply kits were sent to Baghdad. The kits were donated by www.EZschoolsupplies.com and collected by local Boy Scouts.

The Lakewood Kiwanis Club shipped over 400 teddy bears and other stuffed animals to children in the Karada and Sadr City districts of Baghdad.

The Partnership also sent more than 100 pounds of clothing and personal items to the Baghdad Christian Orphanage by Trinity United Methodist Church, Saint Elias Orthodox Church and a variety of individual donors.

Website: <http://www.drcog.org/bdrp/>

Type of program: Humanitarian Assistance/Health Care (Medical)

U.S. Community: Baltimore, Maryland

International Community: Luxor & Alexandria, Egypt

Program Description:

Through a Sister City agreement between Baltimore City and Luxor City in Egypt, The Baltimore-Luxor-Alexandria

Sister City Committee (BLASCC) invited Baltimore physicians, nurses and other health care professionals to train and lecture Egyptian health care workers. The U.S. delegates were hosted in the historic city of Luxor, famed for its massive ancient Egyptian temples and the Valley of the Kings and Queens. The Baltimore healthcare professionals stayed for approximately three weeks in Luxor. All expenses except airfare were covered for the visiting professionals. Luxor International Hospital and neighboring health care centers provide BLASCC with a list of requested specialties and subspecialties on an ongoing basis. The health subcommittee endeavors to match as many applicants of various specialties to the requests received from Luxor, and in accordance with the volunteers’ availability.

Website: <http://www.baltimoreegypt.org/>

Type of program: Humanitarian (Relief)

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Surabaya

Program Description:

The local committee supported several in-country organizations through donations during and following the Aceh tsunami and Yogyakarta earthquake(s). The committee also supported the rebuilding of two schools. The committee also assisted in the “Thank You Celebration” for the U.S.S. Lincoln and its sailors following their return from the tsunami work in the disaster relief. Even though some of our activities did not directly include programs in Surabaya, it was decided that our participation in “greater needs” during times of crisis, and through humanitarian efforts, served as a form of good stewardship and witness for the sister cities program at large.

Website: <http://www.cityofseattle.net/oir/Surabaya.htm>

Type of program: Humanitarian (Relief)

U.S. Community: St. Louis, Missouri

International Community: Bogor, Indonesia

Program Description:

The St. Louis-Bogor Sister Cities Committee organized a relief effort for Indonesian victims of the tsunami disaster. St. Louis-Bogor Sister Cities Committee coordinated the St. Louis relief effort with the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia. The St. Louis-Bogor Sister Cities Committee initiated the relief effort with help from several organizations, including the Indonesian Consulate's office; Permias - the Indonesian Student Association of St. Louis; PLN, the Indonesian Electric Power Company; the St. Louis Center for International Relations; and World Trade Center-Saint Louis.

Website: http://www.slcir.org/bogor_indonesia/

Type of program: Humanitarian (various)/Health Care

U.S. Community: Tempe, Arizona

International Community: Timbuktu, Mali

Program Description:

The Tempe-Timbuktu committee works on a number of humanitarian and development projects in Timbuktu. The committee has fundraised to drill seven drinking wells in the sister city, they have sent a container of 240 wheelchairs and various medical supplies to Timbuktu, and provided funds for a local Women's Center. The committee also funded two 3-day workshops on female circumcision, nutrition and AIDS. The committee also has an ongoing program to provide goats and sheep to needy families in Timbuktu.

Website: <http://www.tempsc.org/>

Type of program: Humanitarian (Medical)/Disabilities/Health Care

U.S. Community: Pleasant Hill, California

International Community: Merzifon, Turkey

Program Description:

The project was a three-way partnership. The Pleasant Hill Rotary Club (representing Rotary International), Friends of Merzifon (representing Sister Cities International), and the Wheelchair Foundation joined forces to raise money for 280 wheelchairs for the disabled and handicapped people in the city of Merzifon.

A sturdy and practical wheelchair, especially manufactured for the Wheelchair Foundation, costs \$150. By raising \$21,000 locally, Pleasant Hill Rotary and Friends of Merzifon qualified for matching funds from the Wheelchair Foundation. Scott's Seafood Grill and Bar in Walnut Creek hosted a luncheon for \$75 per person, with all proceeds being donated to this project — a huge jump-start for the fundraising effort.

The Wheelchair Foundation shipped a container of 280 wheelchairs to Istanbul from where it was transported overland by truck to Merzifon. Thanks to the contacts of Rotary International and Sister Cities International, no dock fees, customs duties, storage charges, or import taxes were assessed on the shipment.

The distribution of wheelchairs began on June 18, 2003, and continued over several weeks. A major ceremony was held to initiate the distribution. Locally, volunteers from the Disabled and Handicapped Society of Merzifon organized the distribution. During the distribution ceremony, a twelve-year-old handicapped boy read a poem he wrote about being handicapped.

Website: http://www.friendsofmerzifon.org/wheelchair_delivery.html

Type of program: Humanitarian (Various)/Health Care

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Program Description:

STSCA has completed a project bringing training on domestic violence to the city of Tashkent, particularly for health professionals and police officials, and would like to extend that work. A partner organization, Orphan Care for Central Asia, has a long history of working with orphanages in Tashkent. The Committee is currently working with Northwest Medical Teams to enhance medical equipment for pediatric hospitals, and develop important research—such as a birth defects registry—to improve public health care, especially for children.

Website: <http://www.seattle-tashkent.org/>

MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

Type of program: Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

International Community: Mosul, Iraq

Program Description:

In March 2006, local Mosul officials and leaders visited Philadelphia and Washington, DC, participating in meetings that emphasized information exchange and cultural understanding. As the city works toward democracy, these exchanges provided valuable support to assist in this process.

Website: <http://www.sister-cities.org/HumanitarianAssistance/Iraqiinitiative>

Type of program: Arts and Culture/ Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: New York, New York

International Community: Cairo, Egypt and other New York global partners

Program Description:

In 2005, the Sister City Program of the City of New York, Inc. hosted a one-and-a-half day Summit titled “Strategies for Public Art”. In collaboration with the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and with assistance provided by the Public Art Fund, the Summit was the first international conference to focus on the municipal challenges of public art. Nine of New York’s ten Sister Cities: Beijing, Budapest, Cairo, Jerusalem, Johannesburg, London, Madrid, Rome, and Tokyo sent delegations that included public officials responsible for public art, leaders in the public art field from the private sector and from local cultural institutions, and also artists with public art experience. The Summit explored

the approaches and innovations some cities have developed to meet these challenges, and noted the range of issues facing New York City and the Sister cities. For all participants, the Summit provided an opportunity to share best practices and strategies for success.

Website: http://www.nyc.gov/html/unccp/scp/html/summit/art_summit.shtml

Type of program: Other/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

Working in cooperation with members of the Arab American Bar Association, the Amman Committee plans to host Jordanian judges for one week during the month of November.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Other/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Elkader, Iowa

International Community: Mascara, Algeria

Program Description:

The most successful activities have been the involvement of the people-to-people exchanges and experiences which has brought down the barriers of indifference and misunderstanding between our two cultures. We have utilized Embassy contacts in times when it was not possible to communicate directly with city officials in Mascara. This has worked to great success as we have had seven Ambassadors from Algeria visit our small city. Elkader, because of its contacts at all levels is perhaps better known in the country of Algeria than it is in the State of

Iowa. The name “Elkader” has special meaning to Algerian citizens and those that visit Elkader say they feel a sense of peace or like being at home when they visit here.

Website: <http://www.albuquerque-sister-cities.org/Ashgabat.htm>

Type of program: Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Houston, Texas

International Community: Baku, Azerbaijan

Program Description:

A delegation of four representatives of different municipalities and regions in Azerbaijan recently visited two small cities in the Houston metropolitan area to see American-style democracy in action. The visit was part of the Open World program sponsored by the Open World Leadership Center, and administered by the Academy for Educational Development in partnership with Sister Cities International. This was the first time that a delegation from Azerbaijan visited the United States as part of the Open World program, and this visit was hosted by the Houston-Baku Sister City committee.

Website: <http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.org/cities/baku/baku.htm>

Type of program: Arts and Culture/Education/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

The Amman Cultural Committee has been working closely with the Chicago Children’s Museum and the Amman Children’s Museum to create a mutually beneficial partnership with exchange of ideas and expertise. With full sup-

port from the Chicago Children's Museum and Her Majesty Queen Rania, staff from the Chicago museum will, throughout the coming year, be supporting the staff in Amman by providing educational/staff training, program and exhibit development, and even assist in the creation of a mobile museum to help reach underprivileged children throughout Jordan. This will not only allow for the development of a great partnership, but will also provide the opportunity for both sides to experience the different cultures of the wonderful cities of Chicago and Amman.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Other/Municipal Cooperation/
Trilateral Partnership (Palestinian-Israeli-U.S. Sister
Cities)

U.S. Community: Gainesville, Florida

International Community: Qalqilya, Palestinian
Authority, Kfar Saba, Israel

Program Description:

This partnership was established after the community of Gainesville reached out to the two communities in the Middle East. The partnership has mainly focused on delegation visits. Prior to the Israeli and Palestinian delegation visits to Gainesville, the community contacts the delegates to determine what issues or topics are of interest to them. The delegation visits have included trips to city facilities such as a regional landfill and recycling center. The Israeli and Palestinian delegates have also expressed interest in learning more about different educational systems, therefore visits to local schools and community colleges have been planned. The partnership visits focus on good governance and city management rather than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Website: <http://www.gnvsistercities.org/?page=kfarsaba>

Type of program: Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Denver Regional Council of
Governments, Colorado

International Community: Baghdad, Iraq

Program Description:

December 2003 marked the first time delegates from Baghdad, Iraq traveled to Denver to learn about how to develop a functioning and modern government system. The goal of the program was that the delegates would learn how to organize a government, how to preside over governmental functions, and how to provide government services. Four delegates met with officials from the state, county, and municipal levels as well as the Board of DRCOG. During that visit, they expressed interest in learning more about public/private partnerships and the organization of nonprofits. Mile High United Way answered that need and joined the partnership.

Since that visit, there have been three more visits to Denver. In addition, Rich Audsley, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Mile High United Way, traveled to Amman, Jordan for a round-table program for NGOs sponsored by the United Nations. In April 2005 Iraqi delegates made another visit to Denver. On this trip, eighteen officials from Baghdad arrived in Denver, Colorado to begin an intensive, two-week information-gathering and relationship-building mission. Their purpose was to learn more about how the public/private partnerships work together to meet the needs of the people. In addition to various cultural and social activities, they participated in a series of meetings to help them build a new, civil society in Iraq.

The meetings included:

- An overview of the governmental system in Colorado and the United States (federal, state, county, local)
- An overview of local law enforcement as a community resource

- Observation of the Colorado State Legislature, the Arvada City Council, the Douglas County Commission, and the DRCOG Board of Directors
- An overview of the Colorado Nonprofit Sector
- An introduction to the United Way's methods of serving the community by creating partnerships and collaborations
- A discussion of a possible NGO training curriculum and continuing education through the University of Denver Graduate School of International Studies and the Denver International Program
- Discussions between government and NGO representatives regarding possible partnerships
- Discussions on possible public/private partnerships for water/wastewater management

Website: <http://www.drcog.org/bdrp>

Type of program: Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Washington, DC

International Community: Dakar, Senegal

Program Description:

DC-Dakar's Ordinary People-to-People Civic Exchange is all about collaborative solution-orientation through ordinary citizen participation in issues of professional interest. The partner (1) investigates Dakar's Mayor's professional interests relevant to cities' infrastructures; (2) establishes and interacts with members of DC-Dakar Families, Emerging Leaders and Leaders Civic Club and (3) is available as a resource partner serving learners and their educators in their study for the theme, Cities and Their Structures.

Website: <http://www.usasc.org/Search/DC-Dakar.html>

Type of program: Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

In May 2006, Mayor Daley and members of the Amman Committee traveled to Amman, Jordan to further the relationship between our two Sister Cities. We met with various officials and dignitaries, members of the business community, medical community, and social service organizations and toured some historical and biblical sites. Our hosts in Amman succeeded in portraying the beautiful and rich culture of the Arab world. On the last day of the trip, Mayor Daley addressed a business leaders' luncheon hosted by the Amman Chamber of Commerce. His slide show presentation described the amazing transformation of our city during the past seventeen years, culminating with pictures of Millennium Park. The audience was absolutely blown away by his vision and his accomplishments.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Arts and Culture (Sister Libraries)/ Education/Municipal Cooperation

U.S. Community: Various

International Community: Various

Program Description:

A Sister Libraries program offers a great opportunity for sister cities to exchange information and materials, collaborate for special events, educate the community about another culture, raise the library's international visibility, and offer opportunities for library staff to learn more about the international library profession. The American Library Association suggests many activities that can be part of a Sister Libraries program:

- Exchange information between libraries.

- Promote awareness of the library and its international “reach.”
- Improve access to published information in both countries.
- Raise awareness of issues and needs facing libraries in various countries.
- Offer opportunities to learn more about a region or country represented by an immigrant group in your community.
- Share techniques and technologies to help solve problems.
- Broaden both your own and your staff’s view of the library profession.
- Increase staff and community knowledge of other cultures.
- Increase diversity of interaction between professionals.
- Share strengths through exchange of resources and expertise.
- Address weaknesses by providing resources, training and exposure.

Website: http://wikis.ala.org/sisterlibraries/index.php/How_to_find_a_Sister_Library

SPORTS

Type of program: Sports

U.S. Community: Houston, Texas

International Community: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Program Description:

Houston Sister Cities hosts an annual Men’s Soccer Tournament for Houston soccer teams to compete against teams from Houston’s sister cities.

Website: <http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.org/abudhabi.htm>

Type of program: Sports

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Program Description:

The Seattle-Tashkent Committee completed an alpinist exchange. A team of 10 Seattle and 10 Tashkent climbers spent one month doing alpine climbs together in Uzbekistan. The following summer, Seattle hosted a team of mountaineers from Tashkent.

Website: <http://www.seattle-tashkent.org/>

Type of program: Sports

U.S. Community: Seattle, Washington

International Community: Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Program Description:

In the 1980s the Seattle-Tashkent Committee partnered with Amputee Soccer International to develop the sport of amputee soccer in Uzbekistan. Numerous sporting exchanges took place between Seattle and Tashkent soccer players.

Website: <http://www.seattle-tashkent.org/>

TECHNOLOGY

Type of program: Education/Technology

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Sulaimaniah, Iraq

Program Description:

The first exchange brought two professors focused on crop sciences from the University of Sulaimaniah to the University of Arizona College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) to participate in a short course focused on crop production, engineering, marketing, pest management, and environmental control. The two universities signed and finalized a Memorandum of Understanding, committing them to continued student and faculty exchanges.

Website: <http://www.sister-cities.org/HumanitarianAssistance/Iraqiinitiative>

TRILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS

Type of program: Other/Municipal Cooperation/Trilateral Partnership (Palestinian-Israeli-U.S. Sister Cities)

U.S. Community: Gainesville, Florida

International Community: Qalqilya, Palestinian Authority, Kfar Saba, Israel

Program Description:

This partnership was established after the community of Gainesville reached out to the two communities in the Middle East. The partnership has mainly focused on delegation visits. Prior to the Israeli and Palestinian delegation visits to Gainesville, the community contacts the delegates to determine what issues or topics are of interest to them. The delegation visits have included trips to city facilities such as a regional landfill and recycling center. The Israeli and Palestinian delegates have also expressed interest in learning more about different educational systems, therefore visits to local schools and community colleges have been planned. The partnership visits focus on good governance and city management rather than the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Website: <http://www.gnvsistercities.org/?page=kfarsaba>

Type of program: Trilateral Partnership (Jordanian, Israeli and U.S. Sister Cities)

U.S. Community: Birmingham, Alabama

International Community: Karak, Jordan and Rosh Ha'ayin, Israel

Program Description:

Two activities are central to the Sister Cities relationship between Karak and Birmingham: 1) Jordan and Israel are

being featured in 2007-08 in the year-long programming of the Birmingham International Center. This will include school-based programs, cultural exchanges, arts and cultural exchange, social programs, seminars and workshops, teacher training, and other extensive government and community involvement. 2) A Birmingham coalition (higher education institutions, local non-profits, and local school systems) has applied for Department of State funding for a three-year program to provide training to local, Jordanian, and Israeli educators and youth leaders to develop programs in youth leadership training, including planning, public policy, conflict resolution, mediation, and other training, leading to greater youth involvement in local government and public policy making.

Website: <http://www.birminghamstercities.com/Jordan.asp>

Type of program: Education/Trilateral Partnership (Palestinian-Israeli-U.S. Sister Cities)

U.S. Community: Burlington, Vermont

International Community: Bethlehem, Palestinian Authority, Arad, Israel

Program Description:

The Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad committee hosted “Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, One Shared Vision” in Burlington for a speaking engagement. This program, sponsored by Partners for Peace (<http://www.partnersforpeace.org/>), brings together three women from the Jerusalem area to speak about their experiences and vision for peace as women of different faiths and national groups. The women tour the country. Communities who are interested in inviting the Jerusalem Women Speak to visit their community should contact Partners for Peace.

Website: http://www.partnersforpeace.org/jerusalem_more.shtml

Type of program: Trilateral Partnership (Palestinian-Israeli-U.S. Sister Cities)

U.S. Community: Burlington, Vermont

International Community: Bethlehem, Palestinian Authority, Arad, Israel

Program Description:

The Burlington-Bethlehem-Arad Sister City Program began in 1991. Burlington, VT hosted a four-day visit from leaders of both Bethlehem and Arad. The group is governed by a citizen committee, which works closely with the Mayor’s Office. The committee receives a small amount of funding annually from the city’s general fund. The committee fundraises throughout the year for their projects. The committee works towards three goals: to support cultural exchanges, to facilitate programs that foster understanding and promote peace in the region and to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Bethlehem. The committee has sponsored dialogues, exchanges, and various activities.

Activities fostering dialogue and education include:

- The committee brought the Israeli Consul General from Boston and a representative of the Palestinian Mission to the U.N. for an educational forum in Burlington.
- Hosting “Jerusalem Women Speak”, a program of Partners for Peace, for a speaking engagement in Burlington. The Jerusalem women travel nationally to speak of their experiences as Muslims, Christians and Jews and their vision for peace.

Fundraising activities include:

- The Sister City committee and the former mayor collected more than \$12,000 during the “Special Collection for Bethlehem” fundraising drive. By raising local awareness of the worsening humanitarian crisis in Bethlehem, the committee raised funds through donations from local churches and individuals. The funds were directed to Bethlehem-based organizations such as Bethlehem University, Beit

Sahur Medical Center, the Pontifical Mission Library, the Epheta Institute for Hearing Impaired Children.

Exchanges include:

- The Committee and the former mayor worked with the University of Vermont to welcome a group of Palestinian and Israeli basketball coaches to Burlington for a training program.
- The former mayor visited Arad and Bethlehem on a number of occasions. He made a presentation about the Trilateral partnership at a conference of Israeli sister cities in Jerusalem.
- The Committee sponsors Israeli, Palestinian and U.S. teens to attend the Seeds of Peace Camp in Maine.
- In cooperation with local university and the Sheraton Hotel, the Committee established a three-month internship in hospitality and hotel management for students from Bethlehem University.

Cultural Activities include:

- The Committee entered four films from Bethlehem and Arad in the Burlington International Film Festival.

Humanitarian activities include:

- Sending medical supplies to hospitals in Bethlehem.
- Sending money to Arad to assist needy children in attending an after-school program.
- Sending Burlingtonians to volunteer in Bethlehem; picking olives and working at local refugee camps.
- A local Burlington church sent donations to help rebuild a church in Bethlehem.

Website: <http://www.ci.burlington.vt.us/sistercities/>

WOMEN'S ISSUES

Type of program: Other/Women's Issues

U.S. Community: Washington, DC

International Community: Dakar, Senegal

Program Description:

The DC committee has been able to fundraise for the English Club that the committee established in Senegal by hosting DC home tours and dinners at the Embassy of Senegal. The committee also fundraises by holding an Ambassadors' lunch for female ambassadors to the United States from Africa. Local citizens can attend the lunch and meet with the female ambassadors.

Website: <http://www.usasc.org/Search/DC-Dakar.html>

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Type of program: Youth Programs/Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Baltimore, Maryland

International Community: Luxor & Alexandria, Egypt

Program Description:

The Baltimore-Luxor-Alexandria Sister Cities Committee partnered with an art museum in Baltimore to create a youth art contest. Local youth were invited to submit artwork portraying Egypt in any way to the art museum for display and competition. The project encourages youth to learn about Egypt and think about what the country means to them.

Website: <http://www.baltimoreegypt.org/>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Washington, DC

International Community: Dakar, Senegal

Program Description:

The most successful activity of this partnership has been the PADEC activity. The PADEC activity is an English Club in Dakar, Senegal that DC-Dakar Sister Cities has supported for the past 15 years. It started with 20 children and today there are over 600 in the program. The DC committee sends financial support, supplies, computers and books. The committee also helped to establish a computer center at the English club. Whenever DC delegations visit Dakar, they bring supplies for the club. The DC committee has been able to fundraise for the English club by hosting home tours and dinners at the Embassy of Senegal. We also fundraise by holding an African Ambassadors lunch for female ambassadors from Africa. Our local citizens can attend the lunch and meet with the ambassadors.

Website: <http://www.usasc.org/Search/DC-Dakar.html>

Type of program: Youth/Arts and Culture/Education

U.S. Community: Houston, Texas

International Community: Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Program Description:

The Houston Sister Cities Committee reached out to elementary schools by having them participate in the Houston International Festival in April. Abu Dhabi was represented by third graders from Hobby Elementary, leading the Children's Parade that opened the festival. The two boys and two girls who carried the Abu Dhabi banner were appropriately dressed in authentic outfits from the UAE. Prior to the event, two board members visited the school to present a talk-and-slide show and introduce Abu Dhabi to the marchers.

Website: <http://www.sistercitiesofhouston.org/abudhabi.htm>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

The University of Arizona (UA) signed an agreement linking the University with the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The agreement promotes faculty, student and curriculum exchanges between the two universities. UA math professor William Faris, a former Fulbright scholar in Russia, is the faculty sponsor for the new agreement. A partnership was first suggested by an Almaty high school student who was in Tucson as part of an international Sister Cities exchange program. That prompted Jerry Gary, chair of the Tucson-Almaty Sister Cities committee, to meet with Kazakhstani university administrators to gauge their interest in a possible relationship. Although Gary got an enthusiastic response, it wasn't until Daulet Kalanov, from

Astana, Kazakhstan, became a UA student that the relationship began to move ahead. Kalanov's mother, an employee at the Ministry of Education in Kazakhstan, heard about the meeting from her son and encouraged the Al-Farabi officials to submit a formal request to President Likins.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Youth/Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Tucson, Arizona

International Community: Almaty, Kazakhstan

Program Description:

American students in Tucson created short videos documenting their lives and activities to send to their sister school in Almaty. The Almaty students responded by creating their own videos about life in Kazakhstan. The Committee has also organized several high school exchanges and sponsored students from Kazakhstan to attend universities in Arizona.

Website: <http://www.tucson-almaty.info/>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Fort Worth, Texas

International Community: Bandung, Indonesia

Program Description:

Fort Worth Sister Cities International received a donation of books from the Fort Worth City Library. Our plan was to donate pre-selected books to our Sister City in Bandung, Indonesia. The books were provided to the City Government of Bandung for distribution to libraries or schools to promote English language training for young readers and students.

Website: <http://fwsistercities.org/about/sistercity/bandung.htm>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Long Beach, California

International Community: Izmir, Turkey

Program Description:

Seven Washington Middle School eighth-graders embarked on an overseas journey to attend Space Camp Turkey in the city of Izmir. The trip marks the second year Washington Middle School students have been awarded scholarships from *Global Friendship Through Space Education* to attend the one-week Partner School Science Program, which aims to expand students' knowledge of math and science and promote cross-cultural understanding through collaborative research and hands-on activities. The students were selected to participate based on their academic success and citizenship.

In preparation for their adventure, the children and their teachers used e-mail and videoconferencing to converse with students of the same age from Gelisim College in Izmir about space-related technologies, as well as what their lives are like in their home countries. During their week at Space Camp Turkey, the students meet the children from Gelisim College and from other countries, share their cultures, and develop friendships formed through a common interest in space. They learn and discuss common global issues regarding space, including sharing of space nations and keeping space clean and safe. They also learn the history of NASA, build and launch rockets, experience flight simulation, and be assigned roles with specific tasks to conduct their own space mission. "Washington Middle School is in a neighborhood of Long Beach that is plagued with violence, drugs, gangs and poverty," says Susan Yamaguchi, business manager for the school. "This trip fulfills a vision of seeing Washington students experience international awareness, exposure to new cultures and peace amongst all people, all while learning about space and science."

The scholarships awarded by GFTSE covered only the one-week camp. Yamaguchi, the students, their parents,

Washington science teacher Mark Stone, and Washington student aide Maria Canela conducted fundraising activities throughout the year to earn the needed \$23,000 for airfare and other expenses. One of the most profitable fundraisers was a dinner and silent auction. More than 150 local business and individuals donated items for the auction. Generous contributions were also made by founders of GFTSE and Space Camp Turkey Kaya and Mary Tuncer, Washington math teacher Mario Guillen, Halliburton, the Los Angeles Turkish American Association, the Michael Levy Galleries, and the Los Angeles Super Shuttle.

The newly founded Izmir-Long Beach Sister Cities Association leaders have pledged ongoing support for the Partner School Science Program at Space Camp Turkey. Izmir has been an official sister city to Long Beach since December 2005. The program will be developed to become an integral part of the Izmir Long Beach Sister Cities programs. "The Izmir-Long Beach Sister Cities Association will continue to support the success of the program by motivating, engaging and empowering private citizens, municipal officials and business leaders from Long Beach and the Turkish American community in Southern California," said Dennis Aytakin, president of the Turkish-North American Business Alliance. The students, who were accompanied by science teacher Stone and aide Canela, returned from their trip in July.

Global Friendship Through Space Education is a California-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting friendship through the experience of hands-on space education in a camp environment. By awarding scholarships, GFTSE provides young people with an opportunity to attend a Space Camp program specifically designed for 12- to 16-year-olds. More information visit www.gftse.org. Sister Cities of Long Beach Inc. enjoys eight Sister Cities and one Friendship City relationship with communities around the world, including Izmir, Turkey. It hosts more than 25 international delegations per year and the Annual International Sister City Festival, drawing close to 1,000 attendees.

Website: <http://portfoliolab.org/PORTAL/DesktopModules/ShowArticle.aspx?pld=35&TabId=615&mId=2524&ItemId=1716>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: San Diego, California

International Community: Jalalabad, Afghanistan

Program Description:

San Diego-Jalalabad Sister Cities partners with the Rotary Club to implement programs and activities in Afghanistan. The San Diego-Jalalabad Sister Cities makes a significant difference in Jalalabad education through proactive outreach, through the building and equipping of a K-12 school, and through initiatives with Nangarhar University. After consulting with Afghani government officials and citizens, several Rotarians began moving forward with the establishment of a Jalalabad school. Rotarian and architect Rick Clark designed plans for elementary, middle, and high school phases; all three have been constructed. The school's 6,000 English dictionaries have been distributed to faculty and students. Later, the Afghan school partnered with a San Diego school for a sister schools relationship. The San Diego students raised funds for school supplies for their sister school, and the Jalalabad students sent letters in reply.

The Nangarhar University activities include partnering the university with San Diego State University, enhancing Nangarhar University's English as a Second Language program, and funding a computer lab at the university.

Website: <http://www.sandiegojalalabadsistercities.org/>

Type of program: Youth/Education

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Amman, Jordan

Program Description:

The Chicago Sister Schools program started in 1999 as a partnership between the Chicago Public Schools (CPS) and Chicago Sister Cities. All schools in the district are eligible to take part in the program, including non-CPS schools in Chicago. While most Sister Schools relationships in Chicago deal with language, they are currently hoping to expand to include additional academic areas like science, arts and theatre. The education committee is working to develop ties between schools in both cities, including encouraging Arabic language programs in Chicago, through the Sister Schools program. The Amman Committee has established Sister School relationships between Bowen Environmental Studies Team (Best) High School, Thomas Kelly High School and Ferdinand Peck Elementary School in Chicago and Ein Jaloot Comprehensive School for Girls, Ahliyyah School for Girls and Jamil Shaker Secondary School in Amman, respectively. Chicago Sister Cities is very involved in funding these programs and making sure the partnerships are long-lasting.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/explore.php?pagename=Amman%20-%20Exchanges§ion=Amman>

Type of program: Youth/Education/Arts and Culture

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Casablanca, Morocco

Program Description:

March 7 through the 13 was designated Chicago Week in Casablanca, and Monday morning began with a conference comparing the educational systems of Morocco, Chicago and the United States. The conference was attended by Casablancans from various branches of Moroccan educational institutions, members of the education subcommit-

tee of the Casablanca Committee, and many visiting delegates from Chicago. The President of Hassan II University opened the conference and welcomed all participants. Presentations by the Vice President of Hassan II and the Dean of the Faculty of Law focused on the organization of the Moroccan educational system and on the reform efforts currently underway at all levels of that system. The Vice President of Al Akhawayne University, a private school, explained their system of private higher education.

The afternoon brought delegates to the Superior Institute of Commerce and Enterprise Administration (ISCAE) for a tour of its beautiful facility and a visit with the Director, students and faculty. Delegates were very impressed with the high level of preparation these students are receiving - and achieving - with the aim of increasing Morocco's participation in the international business community.

Additional visits were made during the week to a number of other educational institutions, such as Al Jisr Association, an organization that has been instrumental throughout Morocco in creating partnerships between public schools and private organizations. Al Jisr has focused particularly in creating these relationships with pre-schools and primary schools in order to bring more resources to bear in the early years of children's education and to ensure the attainment of basic literacy skills at those levels.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/news.php?newsid=103>

Type of program: Youth

U.S. Community: Chicago, Illinois

International Community: Casablanca, Morocco

Program Description:

In conjunction with Chicago Week in Casablanca, a delegation of 80 traveled to Chicago's sister city Casablanca on a threefold mission—youth, volunteerism, and parks. The

group included more than a dozen students from Walter Payton College Prep and 40 members of the South Shore Drill Team & Performing Arts Ensemble, as well as Casablanca Committee members, landscape architects and representatives of Friends of the Parks. Thanks to a substantial donation from the Comer Foundation, the Drill Team, ages 13-20, performed in Casablanca, Rabat and Marrakesh. In addition, the teens interacted with their Moroccan counterparts through sports, music and studies. The Drill Team rehearsed to Moroccan music in preparation for their performances in the North African country.

Website: <http://www.chicagosistercities.com/news.php?newsid=103>



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