SHARED VALUES, GLOBAL IMPACT

LOCAL MEMBERS WHO CHANGE THE WORLD. FOR BOTH KIWANIS AND SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL, THAT’S HOW IMPACT IS MADE. IN FACT, BOTH ORGANIZATIONS EMPHASIZE COOPERATION, UNDERSTANDING AND MUTUAL RESPECT. NOW THEY CAN WORK TOGETHER TO GIVE THOSE VALUES GREATER STRENGTH AROUND THE GLOBE. ONE INDIVIDUAL, ONE COMMUNITY AT A TIME.

WHAT IS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL?

SCI is a nonprofit membership association whose mission is centered on citizen diplomacy. A sister city relationship is a long-term alliance between two cities—one in the U.S. and one in a different country. (A city may have any number of sister cities.) A relationship is formalized by two cities’ mayors, or other elected/appointed officials, and activities are then organized and implemented by local volunteers, local institutions and/or municipal employees. SCI staff provides assistance and expertise to 570 U.S. member communities, which have more than 2,300 partnerships in 150 countries.
WHY IS KIWANIS PARTNERING WITH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL?

From local energy to worldwide reach, this partnership provides several advantages:
• Access to more than 2,300 international partnerships in 150 countries.
• International extension of Kiwanis International’s mission of service via SCI’s mission of citizen diplomacy.
• Opportunities for Kiwanis family members in sister cities to collaborate.
• Promotion of Kiwanis events and service throughout the sister city network.
• Connections to new club and event speakers via members of the U.S. and Foreign diplomatic corps, as well as sister city members.
• Member rates for many SCI events.
• Connections to municipal leaders, trusted nonprofits, private organizations and other civic groups.
• Exchange opportunities in high schools and among professional networks.

WHY IS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL PARTNERING WITH KIWANIS?

Like Kiwanis clubs, members of SCI benefit both locally and globally:
• Access to the Kiwanis network of more than 600,000 adult and youth members in 81 nations.
• Promotion of SCI events, news and service opportunities throughout the Kiwanis network.
• Access to Kiwanis clubs’ expertise on effective local fundraising, with a potential for service and fundraising initiatives that support sister cities locally.
• Opportunities to promote sister city partnerships at local Kiwanis club meetings and events.
• Connections to service-oriented high school and college students through Key Club and Circle K International.
• Opportunities to engage adults who have disabilities through Kiwanis Aktion Clubs.
• Grassroots potential for new sister city relationships and stronger existing partnerships through Kiwanis clubs.

STARTING THE CONVERSATION

There are many ways to connect with sister cities programs. Here are a few simple ideas to get you started:
• Invite local SCI members to a meeting. Invite local SCI members to one of your meetings. Even if they can’t stay for the whole meeting, ask one or more of them to speak about their chapter so your club understands what they do and how you can help. And be sure to offer to attend one of their meetings or speak to their group.
• Get connected. Check out the local chapter’s website and connect on social media. Let your club know what they’re up to and ask for suggestions on how to help. Many sister city programs do humanitarian or development work that complements Kiwanis International’s mission—including disaster relief, health education and more.
• Encourage and support SLP participation. SCI offers a wide range of programming for students. Like Kiwanis SLPs, they help young people develop leadership skills, while also learning about other cultures and expressing themselves through the arts. Programs and events include youth exchanges for high school students, SCI’s annual Youth Leadership Summit and an arts competition called the Young Artists and Authors Showcase.

HOW CAN YOUR CLUB FIND A LOCAL SISTER CITIES PROGRAM?

• Go to sistercities.org and use the website’s “city search.”
• Find the digital copy of SCI’s membership directory at sistercities.org/2016directory.
• Email info@sistercities.org, or call (202) 347-8630.