



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL RECOGNIZES
FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES
WITH 2009 INNOVATION: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC – Fort Worth Sister Cities was selected as the winner of the 2009 Sister Cities International Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance award. Fort Worth Sister Cities will be recognized at Sister Cities International’s annual conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland on July 31, 2009.

“This award is a tribute to the work, contribution and dedication of your volunteers and community to help foster international cooperation and understanding over the past year,” said Patrick Madden, President and CEO of Sister Cities International.

The Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance award recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation. Award-winning programs are selected by a distinguished panel of five judges chosen from diverse backgrounds in international affairs and knowledge of citizen diplomacy. More than 27 cities from around the country competed in the annual awards program this year.

Fort Worth partners with seven sister cities: Reggio Emilia, Italy; Nagaoka, Japan; Trier, Germany; Bandung, Indonesia; Budapest, Hungary; Toluca, Mexico; and Mbabane, Swaziland. In 2008, Fort Worth Sister Cities, represented by Judith Dillard—HIV survivor and treatment advocate, participated in Walk the Nation. This twelve-day walk mobilizes communities across the Kingdom of Swaziland to take the lead in the fight against the HIV & AIDS epidemic. Fort Worth Sister Cities has partnered with the Fort Worth Rotary Club and Samaritan House to provide 2,800 copies of *Angels at My Doorstep*. In September 2009, Fort Worth Sister Cities will travel to Mbabane, Swaziland to hand out these books to impoverished children. *Angels at My Doorstep* contains stories of children whose family members are living with HIV. Visit <http://fwsistercities.org/about/sistercities.htm> to learn more about Fort Worth’s sister city involvement.

Sister Cities International is the only U.S.-based organization dedicated to creating long-term city-to-city relationships between U.S. and communities abroad. Created by U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 at a White House summit, the organization is a leader in people-to-people exchanges with a network that boasts over 650 U.S. cities with more than 1,900 sister city relationships in 135 countries on six continents.

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Sister Cities International promotes peace through mutual respect, understanding and cooperation by focusing exchanges and public programs on sustainable and economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance. More information about Sister Cities International can be found at www.sister-cities.org.

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