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### Sister Cities International Annual Award Winners Announced

WASHINGTON, DC – Sister Cities International today announced the 2012 Annual Awards winners. Established in 1962, the Sister Cities International Annual Awards recognize sister city programs that demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

Sister city programs and volunteers were nominated for achievements made in 2012 in the following categories: Best Overall Program Award, Innovation Award, Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership Award. A three-member judging panel deliberated to select this year's winners. The winners are:

#### Best Overall Program (based on population):

- Best Overall Program (Population less than 25,000): **Bandera County, Texas**
- Best Overall Program (Population between 25,001 – 50,000): **Prescott Valley, Arizona**
- Best Overall Program (Population between 50,001 – 100,000): **Lakeland, Florida**
- Best Overall Program (Population between 100,001 – 300,000): **Tempe, Arizona**
- Best Overall Program (Population between 300,001 – 500,000): **Tulsa, Oklahoma**
- Best Overall Program (Population greater than 500,001): **Indianapolis, Indiana**

#### Innovation Awards (based on population and in the thematic areas of: Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education):

- Innovation: Arts & Culture (Population less than 100,000): **Lakeland, Florida**
- Innovation: Arts & Culture (Population between 100,001-500,000): **Minneapolis, Minnesota**
- Innovation: Arts & Culture (Population greater than 500,001): **Chicago, Illinois**
- Innovation: Economic Development (Population greater than 500,001): **Phoenix, Arizona**
- Innovation: Energy/Sustainable Dev (Population greater than 500,001): **San Antonio, Texas**
- Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance (Population greater than 500,001): **Fort Worth, Texas**
- Innovation: Youth & Education (Population less than 100,000): **Suffolk, Virginia**
- Innovation: Youth & Education (Population greater than 500,001): **Santa Clara County, California**

**Dana K. Kelly of Lakeland, Florida** and **Caroline Cole of Hot Springs, Arkansas** were honored in the Volunteer of the Year and Youth Leadership Award categories respectively.

Winners will be honored at the 57<sup>th</sup> Sister Cities International Annual Conference's exclusive Lou Wozar Annual Awards Banquet on July 13, 2013 at the Hyatt Regency, San Antonio, Texas.

For more information on the individual winners and interview requests, please email Megha Swamy at [mswamy@sister-cities.org](mailto:mswamy@sister-cities.org).

#### About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in nearly 2,000 communities in 140 countries on six continents. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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