
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS, MN/LOMIANKI, POLAND SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – Columbia Heights, MN/Lomianki, Poland Sister Cities International (CHLPSCI) has won Sister Cities International's 2015 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population less than 25,000. The 2015 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2014 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

In 2014, CHLPSCI developed a Police Officer Exchange with their sister city Lomianki, Poland, sponsored a Young Artists and Authors Showcase, hosted various Polish American Heritage Month events, cooperated with a Professor at the University of Alaska translate *Frantic 7*, a Polish documentary written by a sister cities colleague in Poland, promoted their sister city relationship in the Columbia Heights, Minnesota community and school district, and assisted other Polish organizations with events in the community.

CHLPSCI is considered to be one of the most dynamic organizations in Columbia Heights. With increased membership, participation in local events, humanitarian work in the U.S. and Lomianki, activeness in educational activities, promotion of civic events, and more, CHLPSCI has had a huge impact on individuals in Columbia Heights and beyond. The success of their organization is thanks to a completely volunteer based staff, the support of the Mayor and City Council, and school district administrators, staff, and faculty.

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

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

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About Sister Cities International

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

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