



**FORT WORTH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD
FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

WASHINGTON, DC – Fort Worth Sister Cities International (FWSCI) has won the Sister Cities International (SCI) 2017 Innovation Award for Humanitarian Assistance for a city with a population greater than 500,001. The Sister Cities International Innovation Award for Humanitarian Assistance recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

In 2016, the FWSCI youth board of directors became entrenched in the plight of refugees. In search of ways to help, the youth board partnered with an organization called Refugee Services of Texas and local churches to assist a refugee family of four from Iraq. They successfully raised hundreds of dollars and were able to supply furniture, clothing, utensils and toiletries for the family's new home. The group of 22 students also fully stocked the pantry and refrigerator of the home and assembled all the furniture in the apartment. When the family arrived in Fort Worth from Iraq at 1:00 am, the youth board was at the airport to welcome them and escorted them to their new home for a home-cooked meal on their first night in the United States. These efforts exemplify the collaboration and respect between cultures that Eisenhower envisioned when he founded Sister Cities International in 1956.

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 15 during SCI's 61st Annual Conference in Virginia Beach, VA.

SCI's 61st [Annual Conference](#) events, which include a [Youth Leadership Summit](#) and a [U.S.-Russia Mayors' Summit](#), will take place in Virginia Beach, VA from July 12-16, 2017. The events will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme "Global Communities for World Peace," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships through communities.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 500 member communities with over 2,000 partnerships in 145 countries on six continents. The 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 development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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