
MILWAUKEE COUNTY/BUFFALO CITY MUNICIPALITY SISTER CITIES PARTNERSHIP WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION (HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE) AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – Milwaukee County/Buffalo City Municipality Sister Cities Partnership has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Innovation Award (Humanitarian Assistance) for a city with a population greater than 500,001. The 2014 Sister Cities International Innovation Award (Humanitarian Assistance) recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

From 2010 to 2013, the Milwaukee County/Buffalo City Municipality (MCBCM) Sister Cities Partnership facilitated an African Urban Poverty Alleviation Program (AUPAP), which expanded and renovated the Aspiranza Clinic in one of the poorest areas of Buffalo City, South Africa, Buffalo Flats. Buffalo City's social problems include ill health which is linked to poverty and poor living conditions such as diarrheal disease, acute respiratory tract infections, malnutrition, TB and HIV/AIDS.

In 2013, the work of the MCBCM Sister Cities Partnership was successfully completed, showing outcomes which indicated improvements in the service capacity of the health facility in the Buffalo Flats area, a safer medical treatment environment for all patients utilizing the services of the clinic and an expanded treatment capacity for infectious diseases, improved access on site to a range of in-clinic medical services, and the installment of a temporary storage facility at the clinic.

To successfully implement this project, MCBCM Sister Cities Partnership's working group members collaborated with the Center for International Health, the Aspiranza Clinic, International Centre for AIDS Care & Treatment Programs, Mothers to Mothers & Eastern Cape NGO Coalition, the East London Hospital Complex, and the Border Kei Chamber of Business.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, August 2, during Sister Cities International's 58th Annual Conference in San Jose, California.

The Sister Cities International 58th Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in the exciting capital of Silicon Valley to discuss, "The Power of Digital Diplomacy". 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 2014 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 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 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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