
ALTHEA MUSGROVE NORCOTT WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WASHINGTON, DC – Althea Musgrove Norcott from New Haven Sister Cities International has won Sister Cities International's 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award. The Volunteer of the Year Annual Award honors an exemplary volunteer for contributions to the sister city movement and recognizes the leadership and talent that benefit local sister city programs and the larger sister city network.

Ms. Norcott was born and raised in New Haven, Connecticut by an African-American father and a British mother. Although she had the opportunity to travel to England during her youth, it was a trip East Africa while in high school that started a lifelong interest in culture, diversity, and global understanding.

For the past 18 years, Ms. Norcott has worked with refugees to raise funds and awareness for the people of Sierra Leone. She has helped facilitate the raising of \$100,000 as well as gathering \$100,000 worth of furniture, books, and medical and school supplies to be donated to local families in Freetown. Funds have been directed to Freetown schools to repair war-torn buildings, build classrooms, establish libraries, create water towers, and promote goodwill between New Haven and Freetown.

Ms. Norcott helped declare New Haven a true sister city to Freetown and promised she would never turn away from the plight of Freetown residents as quarantine and virus-eradication measures were ramped up and now seem to be subsiding. Ms. Norcott also helped facilitate the shipment of state-of-the-art ambulances with spare parts as well as medical and educational supplies that will vastly improve the quality of medical diagnoses, treatments, and care in Freetown.

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 in 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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