

FORT WORTH

SISTER  
CITIES

INTERNATIONAL

25<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

## From The Mayor

Fort Worth Sister Cities has been a crucial part of the City of Fort Worth for 25 years. Since its inception, this organization has played a pivotal role in bringing the citizens of the world together through its partnerships and citizen diplomacy programs, and has united the people of Fort Worth, Texas in meaningful endeavors.

A city such as Fort Worth is more than simply roads, laws and infrastructure. In order to give the city a strong and vibrant sense of community, the citizens must form connections with one another. This is one of the greatest strengths of organizations such as Fort Worth Sister Cities. They bring people together under noble causes, leveraging the combined power of their membership to accomplish goals that are much larger than any one person could achieve. The phenomenal byproduct of this synergy is the creation of unity, cohesiveness and a strong sense of connection between all involved.

Fort Worth Sister Cities played an integral role in making Fort Worth an international city dedicated to building international relationships. By nurturing its partnerships with seven international cities, Sister Cities has brought Fort Worth to the forefront of international business and generated a substantial economic impact for the city itself. It is one of the reasons that so many of the world's greatest corporations choose to make Fort Worth their home today.



For 25 years, this organization has helped the city build a firm foundation for doing business in the global marketplace. It is an organization with its roots planted firmly in the past, but with its eyes always toward the future. It is my hope that Fort Worth Sister Cities will continue to unify and enhance the city of Fort Worth while making inroads toward cultural understanding for 25 years and far beyond. Happy Anniversary.

*Sincerely,*  
Mayor Mike Moncrief

### Executive Committee:

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Joseph Ramirez, Vice President/COO  
Irene Chase, Vice President  
Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager  
Josh Cauthen, Program Manager

## From The Chairman

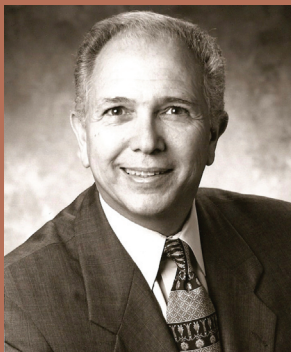
The year 2009 was a year of change, both for Fort Worth Sister Cities and the nation. Perhaps one of the greatest reasons to be proud of this organization is the resiliency it derives from the passion and tenacity of its members. In a year of national economic strife and uncertainty, Fort Worth Sister Cities has persevered and accomplished many incredible milestones.

This year we celebrated our fifth anniversary with the newest member of our Sister Cities family, Mbabane, Swaziland and had thirty people travel with us to re-commit to this meaningful and enriching partnership. We were also awarded a grant from Sister Cities International, through its Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Program, which is supported by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Our award will be used to create and expand programs in Mbabane which will greatly improve the lives of their citizens.

We enjoyed tremendous success in the fourth installment of our ongoing program with Reggio Emilia, Italy, the Olimpiade del Tricolore. We had 174 athletes, coaches and parents supporting our acquisition of 11 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze medals.

Fort Worth Sister Cities staged its largest ever September Song, a free concert honoring the first responders of Fort Worth and re-affirming our commitment to peace. We also kicked off our 25th Anniversary at the Mayor's International Dinner with our new logo and website.

It is now appropriate that as we go into 2010, a year of renewal and reinvention, we celebrate our 25th Anniversary. When I consider the roots of this organization and the visionaries who worked so hard to make Fort Worth Sister Cities what it is today, it gives me great hope that we will continue to make meaningful advances toward peace and understanding.



Join us in 2010 as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary and begin to diversify and expand our sister cities family with the addition of our eighth sister city from China. The world is ready, and the time is now!

Phil Moroneso,  
*Chairman of the Board*

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1985

In 1985, Fort Worth Sister Cities incorporated after a group of dedicated volunteers performed countless hours of research to bring the dream of a strong, non-profit, citizen diplomacy organization to life in the City of Fort Worth.

Shortly thereafter, Reggio Emilia, Italy became Fort Worth's first sister city, and the organization began actively planning exchanges and programs to interact with its first partner.

1987

In 1987, Fort Worth signed two new sister city partnerships: Trier, Germany and Nagaoka, Japan. The organization also hosted the Sister Cities International Annual Conference, bringing hundreds of people from around the world to Fort Worth.



1992

In 1992, Fort Worth Sister Cities won its second national award for Best Overall Program.

1996

In 1996, Fort Worth Sister Cities held its very first Mayor's International Dinner, an annual fundraiser and gala that would continue to elevate the awareness of Fort Worth Sister Cities in the community, as well as raise crucial funds for operations.

1997

In 1997, youth athletes from Fort Worth represented the USA at the first Olimpiade del Tricolore, a youth-based version of the Olympics. Fort Worth was the only American city invited to participate because of its strong relationship with Reggio Emilia.



1991

In 1991, the Harashin Scholarship Program was created. Through this program, Shinichi Hara, provided full travel scholarships for students and teachers from both Fort Worth and Nagaoka to travel between the two cities.

1990

Fort Worth Sister Cities became the first US city to partner with a city in Indonesia, Bandung, and also signed its fourth sister city, Budapest, Hungary.

In 1990, Fort Worth Sister Cities won the National Sister Cities award for Best Overall Program for the first time.



1999

In 1999 the national office awarded founding mother and crucial volunteer, Mary Palko, the Sister Cities International Volunteer of the Year award.

1998

In 1998, Toluca, Mexico was added as Fort Worth's sixth Sister City.

In 1998, the organization was awarded Best Overall Program for the third time.



1986

The first inbound exchange took place in 1986. Fort Worth invited and hosted 135 runners from Reggio Emilia to run in the annual Cowtown Marathon. Also in 1986, Fort Worth Sister Cities was awarded the Reader's Digest award for Best New Program.

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2000

In 2000, the organization created an award named after former Fort Worth Mayor and active Sister City advocate, Bob Bolen. The first Bob Bolen award for Outstanding Board Leadership was presented to Mike Hyatt.



2002

In 2002, Fort Worth Sister Cities participated in the first September Concert, a program created after Sept. 11, 2001, to bring communities together to reaffirm our hope for peace and to celebrate life and our universal humanity.

2004

In 2004, Mbabane, Swaziland became Fort Worth's seventh sister city. This momentous signing took place in Fort Worth during the Sister Cities International Annual Conference hosted by Fort Worth for the second time. This partnership started with humanitarian assistance projects that included sending 280 wheelchairs and 100 computers to Swaziland. These efforts resulted in Fort Worth winning the 2004 national award for Humanitarian Assistance.

2006

In 2006, Executive Director, Mae Ferguson, was elected as president of the national organization to serve a two year term leading the board of directors.

2008

In 2008, Fort Worth won Best Overall Program for the sixth time in its 22-year history and Shinichi Hara was awarded Volunteer of the Year for his creation and dedication to the Harashin Scholarship Program.

2009

In 2009, Fort Worth Sister Cities enjoyed two great successes: the largest single exchange with 174 delegates traveling to Reggio Emilia, Italy for the fourth installment of the Olimpiade del Tricolore and the receipt of a \$115,000 poverty alleviation grant to be used for health, water and sanitation projects in Mbabane, Swaziland.



2003

2003 brought about the creation of a new program to increase and sustain young adult membership and to bridge the gap between youth and adult programs – GAP (Global Alumni Program). This program won the 2003 national Sister Cities award for Innovation in Youth Programming.

In 2003, Fort Worth Sister Cities received the national award for Best Overall Program for the fifth time in its 18 year history.



2010

In 2010, Fort Worth Sister Cities celebrates its 25th anniversary.



2001

On September 11, 2001, 68 delegates were visiting Trier, Germany when terrorists attacked the United States. Since all travel was curtailed at that time the Trier city council and entire community opened its arms and helped the Sister Cities' delegates until they could return home safe and sound.

Fort Worth Sister Cities closed out 2001 by celebrating their fourth national Award for Best Overall Program.



## Contributing

(\$100 - \$249)

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Texas Health Harris Methodist Fort Worth  
University Christian Church  
University of North Texas Health Science Center

We apologize for any errors or omissions.

# Financial Statements

For the fiscal years ended September 30

2009

2008

## Statements of Financial Position

Assets	\$ 843,920	\$ 806,159
Liabilities	219,439	241,242
<i>Total Net Assets</i>	<i>\$ 624,481</i>	<i>\$ 564,917</i>

## Statement of Financial Activities

<i>Revenue and other support:</i>		
Fort Worth Contract	\$ 378,420	\$ 378,420
Membership Dues	58,533	57,675
Programs & Exchanges	637,459	527,585
Contributions	64,200	73,098
Fundraising	222,678	249,645
Investment Income	30,276	4,291
Other Income		1,750
<i>Total Revenue and other support</i>	<i>1,391,566</i>	<i>1,292,464</i>
<i>Expenses:</i>		
Programs & Exchanges	1,109,502	1,008,211
Fundraising	129,795	123,326
General & Administrative	93,546	141,876
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<i>1,332,843</i>	<i>1,273,413</i>
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	58,723	19,051
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	841	250
<i>Change in Net Assets</i>	<i>59,564</i>	<i>19,301</i>
<i>Net Assets at Beginning of Year</i>	<i>564,917</i>	<i>545,616</i>
<i>Net Assets at End of Year</i>	<i>\$ 624,481</i>	<i>\$ 564,917</i>

The financial information presented here represents a portion of the financial statements of the Association.  
Audited financial statements are available upon request.

## Programs

**Total Inbound Exchanges – 19**  
**Total Outbound Exchanges – 16**  
**Total Inbound and Outbound Delegates – 587**  
**Total Local Programs – 240**

### Youth Exchanges

101 students participated – inbound  
 146 students participated – outbound  
     66% *White*  
     15% *African American*  
     16% *Hispanic*  
     3% *Asian*

### Youth and Educators Scholarships

\$72,532 awarded  
 28 students awarded scholarships  
 75% of all scholarships awarded to FWISD students  
     25% *White*  
     29% *African American*  
     36% *Hispanic*  
     10% *Asian*

### Total economic impact for 2009

\$2,851,533

# 2009 Mayor's Dinner Sponsors

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The Stoval Corporation  
The T  
Texas Health Harris Hospital Southwest  
Texas Jet  
Texas United  
Elaine Yamagata

## Awards

### **Local Awards**

The Yamagata Emerging Leader Scholarship - *Lauren Eller*  
Eisenhower Award for International Organizational Involvement - *Black Ecumenical Leadership Alliance*  
Youth Volunteer of the Year - *Treasure Tinsley*  
Volunteer of the Year - *Jean and David Frick*  
Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership - *Becky Renfro Borbolla*

### **National Awards**

Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance (2008)  
Sister Cities Award for Best Overall Program (2007, 2003, 2001, 1998, 1992, 1990)  
Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: *Shinichi Hara* (2007)  
Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: *Elaine Yamagata* (2005)  
Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Award (2005)  
Award for Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance (2004)  
Sister Cities Award for Most Innovative Youth Program (2003, 2002)  
Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Public Safety (2003)  
Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: *Mary Palko* (1999)  
Sister Cities Special Achievement Award in Education (1996)  
Reader's Digest Award for Best Overall Youth Program (1991)  
Sales and Marketing Executive Award (1990)  
Neighborhood USA Award (1989)  
Reader's Digest Award for Best New Program and Most Community Involvement (1998 and 1986)

**Fort Worth Sister Cities International**

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