2015 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING GLOBALLY, THRIVING LOCALLY.
“If we are going to take advantage of the assumption that all people want peace, then the problem is for people to get together and to leap governments – if necessary to evade governments – to work out not one method but thousands of methods by which people can gradually learn a little bit more of each other.”

– President Dwight D. Eisenhower, September 11, 1958

“As an increasingly global community and international gateway, Fort Worth gladly nurtures the responsibility of growing relations with our international partners. Doing so grants us opportunities to more freely exchange information and ideas while fostering greater economic ties. Marking over thirty years of service, Sister Cities has grown to be a conduit for many of these international connections.”

- Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Honorary Board Chair, Fort Worth Sister Cities International

“As the 16th-largest city in the United States and one of the fastest-growing, Fort Worth has to expand its global perspective in order to sustain success. Forming international relationships, fostering new business connections and promoting tourism are vital to seizing opportunities and overcoming challenges in this global era and that’s what Sister Cities does.”

– Michael Bennett, Chairman of the Board, Fort Worth Sister Cities International

### 2015 Year in Review

**Municipal**
- Joined Mayor Price in Reggio Emilia, Italy to meet new mayor of Reggio.
- Chamber of Commerce representative joined delegation in Reggio to discuss possible trade missions/other connections
- Visited new Mayor Leibe of Trier, Germany and discussed future exchanges

**Education**
- Partnered with FWISD for second Spanish Immersion & Enrichment Camp for 100 Fort Worth elementary students
- Conducted educational events focused on Italy, South Africa, Mexico, Japan and Cuba
- Hosted law students from Toluca and interns from Mexico, Vietnam and China
- Partnered with Women’s Policy Forum on Women’s Symposia in Toluca, Mexico focused on gender equality

**Youth**
- Hosted 140 students locally and sent 96 on exchanges
- Partnered with Trinity Valley School for Toluca student exchanges to Fort Worth
- Conducted 26th International Leadership Academy with 165 participants and 9th Jr. Academy
- Sent 70 student athletes and coaches to Italy for 5th Edition of Youth Sports Games winning 8 gold, 2 silver and 6 bronze medals representing the USA

**Arts & Culture**
- Held the annual Japanese Oshogatsu celebration
- Partnered with the Trinity River Vision for Oktoberfest by the Trinity River
- Students from Nagaoka performed at the Japanese Festival at the Botanic Gardens
- Sampled foods from China

**New Projects**
- Conducted Reggio Children’s seminar with 100 early childhood development specialists attending
- 20 delegates explored the country of Vietnam
- Developed exploratory/educational trip to Cuba
- Launched Members Circle Campaign
- Recognized first Global Awards recipients at Mayor’s International Dinner: Global Impact, U.S. Representative Kay Granger; Global Nexus, DFW Airport; Global Citizens, Black Ecumenical Leaders Alliance

**Revenue**
- Staged 2nd Annual Amazingly Global Race
- Conducted second online auction with local Fort Worth chefs
- Provided over $148,780 for youth and educator scholarships
- Staged 16th Mayor’s International Dinner with addition of first Global Awards
- Provided $2.7 million economic impact to City of Fort Worth

Fort Worth Sister Cities International, a 501c3 nonprofit, is the only organization dedicated solely to promoting Fort Worth globally and enriching our community through international education, exchange and commerce.

We manage the City of Fort Worth’s eight sister city relationships from Nagaoka, Japan, to Toluca, Mexico. Our annual program goals are designed to:
- Orchestrate international inbound and outbound exchanges
- Provide instruction for protocol and diplomacy
- Produce unparalleled youth and educator programs
- Conduct exchanges to foster economic development

In an increasingly smaller world, Fort Worth Sister Cities plays a huge role in enhancing the image of our city abroad - helping to improve the lives of our citizens and enhance global opportunities for all.

**Impacting the World for 30 Years**
For Mary Robinson, that moment was when she was in the eighth grade. Precious moments in which something incredible happens that forever changes one’s life. Starlight bursts that occur occasionally. These are impact points. They are rare, but they do happen. Adventure” book. If we could view every path along a person’s life, we would see bright moments of impact. For Mary, it was at 4:30AM and the food was an amalgam of tastes, textures, and exotic ingredients. It was the perfect mix of familiarity and culture to ignite a passion for travel in Mary. The leadership activities were so different than what she was used to. “The environment made it OK to be yourself,” she said.

After that first IIA, Mary traveled to several of Fort Worth’s sister cities including Budapest, Hungary, which she said ignited a lifetime fascination to study the legacy of communism. She also traveled to Reggio Emilia, Italy where she practiced her language skills as she had been taking Italian at Paschal High School under an instructor who was from Reggio Emilia. After her junior high and high school involvement with Fort Worth Sister Cities International, it came time for Mary to choose a major and it became evident that Mary had not only a love for, but also a penchant for learning foreign languages. This led her to pursue an undergraduate degree in linguistics, with a minor in Russian language. After hosting Satsuki, Mary participated on a Fort Worth Sister Cities International, two-week international issues forum held in Fort Worth for the last twenty six years, which she describes as “a game changer.” Mary said that it is often difficult to comprehend the effects that a cultural exchange can have upon the participants. For Mary it goes back to a single point of impact; that one cultural exchange when she was in the eighth grade that nurtured her love of other cultures and ignited a passion for foreign language. Even if we could collect the stories of every student who has been involved in Fort Worth Sister Cities, we could never truly know or understand the scope of reach of this organization. But what we do know is that Fort Worth Sister Cities International is as relevant today as it was when Eisenhower first dreamed of the concept, “Bringing the world together, one friendship at a time.”

Life can be thought of as a series of paths that we take; similar to a “Choose Your Own Adventure” book. If we could view every path along a person’s life, we would see bright starlight bursts that occur occasionally. These are impact points. They are rare, but precious moments in which something incredible happens that forever changes one’s life. For Mary Robinson, that moment was when she was in the eighth grade.

Doggett Montessori posted the need for host families for a delegation of students from Japan. Having never traveled abroad or had much interaction with people from other countries, Mary saw this as a fun way to be a part of something greater while expanding her world view. The Robinson family welcomed a young girl by the name of Satsuki into their home. At first, Mary focused on the differences between their cultures. She recalls the respect and reverence the young Japanese student placed upon custom and authority. In time, the differences faded away to reveal the similarities; the joy, love and experiences that unite us all.

After hosting Satsuki, Mary participated on a Fort Worth Sister Cities outbound exchange to Japan where she practiced her language skills as she had been taking Italian at Paschal High School under an instructor who was from Reggio Emilia. It was the perfect mix of familiarity and culture to ignite a passion for travel in Mary. The leadership activities were so different than what she was used to. “The environment made it OK to be yourself,” she said.

After that first IIA, Mary traveled to Fort Worth’s sister city of Trier, Germany after having met several German students who had been hosted by Arlington Heights. It was 2006, and Mary fondly recalls the celebration and excitement surrounding the opening of the World Cup games in the town square.

After these experiences, she was excited to participate in the International Leadership Academy (ILA), Sister Cities’ two-week international issues forum held in Fort Worth for the last twenty six years, which she describes as “a game changer.” Mary said that she had always been incredibly shy and the prospect of speaking in front of other people and participating in large groups was intimidating. Something about IIA made her come out of her shell.

In this age of metrics and measurements, non-profit organizations are constantly called upon to prove their value and for many people, it is often difficult to comprehend the effects that a cultural exchange can have upon the participants. For Mary it goes back to a single point of impact; that one cultural exchange when she was in the eighth grade that nurtured her love of other cultures and ignited a passion for foreign language. Even if we could collect the stories of every student who has been involved in Fort Worth Sister Cities, we could never truly know or understand the scope of reach of this organization. But what we do know is that Fort Worth Sister Cities International is as relevant today as it was when Eisenhower first dreamed of the concept, “Bringing the world together, one friendship at a time.”

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015

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<tr>
<th>Statement of Financial Activities</th>
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After her junior high and high school involvement with Fort Worth Sister Cities International, it came time for Mary to choose a major and it became evident that Mary had not only a love for, but also a penchant for learning foreign languages. This led her to pursue an undergraduate degree in linguistics, with a minor in Russian language. After college, she moved to Poland on a Fulbright grant to teach English and she is currently pursuing her doctoral degree in linguistics at NYU.
Thank You for Your Belief and Support

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Rose Knoop in memory of her parents
and Curry Printing, Inc. for their support in
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Katie Wharry, Associate Director for Community Engagement
Dana de Moor, Events and Volunteer Coordinator

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Zim Zimmerman, Chair

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Rose Knoop in memory of her parents

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BNSF Railway Company
The Amon G. Carter Foundation

Dallas/Fort Worth Country Day
Fort Worth Independent School District
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Liquor Wholesalers
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Midwest Home

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Motivus

ONCOR Electric Delivery

Pacific Table

The American Institute of Architects

Pulse Films

The American Museum of Natural History

Rodeo

Robert Shaw Gamblin

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Kevin Ryan


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Thank you to all of our members, sponsors, fundraising supporters and volunteers.

Thank you to PULSE Design and Branding and Carolin & Shumate for their support in the production of this report.

We apologize for any errors and omissions.
30 Years of Excellence

Local Awards
- Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership – Ann Rice
- Volunteer of the Year – Tara Forrest
- Youth Volunteer of the Year – Bogdana Oliynyk
- Eisenhower Award for Organizational Involvement – Bank of Texas
- Global Impact Award – U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger
- Global Citizens Award – Black Ecumenical Leaders Alliance
- Global Nexus Award – Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport
- Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholar – Selin Karsi
- Fort Worth Japanese Society Scholar – Alisha Sharp
- Rotary International Scholars – Henry Chao and Zoe Nichols Payne

National & International Awards
- Youth Volunteer of the Year: Bogdana Oliynyk (2015)
- US/China Sister Cities Award for Youth Programs (2014)
- Sister Cities International Chairman’s Award: Michael S. Hyatt (2013)
- China International Friendship Cities Award for 2012 International Friendly City
- Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Arts & Culture (2010)
- Sister Cities Award for Most Innovative Youth Program (2010, 2003, 2002)
- United Nations Positive Peace Award for Most Positive City Top 5 Finalist (2010)
- Sister Cities International Chairman’s Award: Mae Ferguson (2008)
- Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: Shinichi Hara (2007)
- Sister Cities International President’s Award: Mary Palko (2006)
- Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year: Elaine Yamagata (2005)
- Sister Cities 50th Anniversary Award (2005)
- Sister Cities Award for Innovation in Public Safety (2003)
- Sister Cities Volunteer of the Year – Mary Palko (1999)
- Sister Cities Special Achievement Awards 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 (1988 & 1986)