



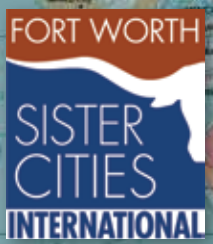
Ballet Folklórico



Mayor Price with Toluca Mayor Zamora



Student Exchange in Florence, Italy



2016 Annual Report

Connecting Globally. Thriving Locally.



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, Fort Worth has welcomed the responsibility to connect and develop relationships with our international partners. The exchange of information, ideas and economic opportunity that has come from these relationships is vital to growing Fort Worth's global impact. Sister Cities has been an important part of our community, bringing attention to our image as a global economic powerhouse for over 30 years."

**– 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."

**– Johnny Campbell, Chairman of the Board,
Fort Worth Sister Cities International**

Impacting the World for Over 30 Years

Fort Worth's Sister Cities:

- Bandung, Indonesia
- Budapest, Hungary
- Guiyang, China
- Mbabane, Swaziland
- Nagaoka, Japan
- Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Toluca, Mexico
- Trier, Germany

Mission:

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 provide a world of opportunities for our city leaders, citizens, educators, students and businesses alike.

Goals:

- Develop a community engagement campaign that will:
 - Involve more students providing them with a global education
 - Increase scholarships for disadvantaged youth
 - Involve more citizens through educational initiatives and hosting
- Expand international relationships to support economic development
- Establish a Center for Global Relations to include:
 - Protocol services and diplomacy education
 - Corporate relocation services
 - Database of international resources for travel and business

2016 Year in Review

Municipal

- Traveled with Mayor Price to Mexico City and Toluca, Mexico as well as Tokyo and Nagaoka, Japan on DFW Airport mission trips
- Mayor Pro Tem Sal Espino led delegation to Guiyang, China to celebrate the 5th anniversary as partners
- FW Police Department provided training to officers and law students from Toluca, Mexico

Education

- Partnered with FWISD for 3rd Spanish Immersion & Enrichment Camp for 65 Fort Worth elementary students
- Conducted educational events focused on Italy, Indonesia, Germany, Mexico, Japan, China, Hungary, and Cuba
- Hosted Cuban Ambassador in Fort Worth who spoke to several audiences on current political situation
- Hosted law students from Toluca and interns from Mexico, France, China, Germany, and Swaziland
- Partnered with Women's Policy Forum on women's symposia in Toluca, Mexico focused on gender equality
- Facilitated a conversation on the refugee crisis with local experts

Youth

- Hosted 160 students locally and sent 75 on exchanges to six countries
- Conducted 27th International Leadership Academy with 100 participants and 10th Jr. Academy
- Celebrated the 25th anniversary of Harashin scholars program and hosted dinner of 100+ alum to thank Hara family
- Leadership traveled to Nagaoka to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Harashin there and to participate in the Hanabi fireworks festival

Arts & Culture

- Held the annual Japanese New Year celebration, Oshogatsu
- Partnered with Trinity River Vision for Oktoberfest by the Trinity River
- Hosted 6 Italian culinary students from the Motti School in Reggio Emilia, Italy in Fort Worth
- Hosted the Hungarian Ambassador in Fort Worth for a Rotary Club meeting and the Hungarian May Fest

New Projects:

- 25 delegates visited Cuba on educational mission
- Developed an educational mission to Jordan, including Petra, Amman, Madaba, Aqaba and the Dead Sea to occur in Spring 2017
- Launched Members Circle Campaign 2016
- Instituted protocol services series for Fort Worth businesses and individuals

Revenue:

- Staged 3rd Annual Amazingly Global Race
- Launched the 2016 Members Circle Campaign raising \$300,000
- Raised nearly \$40,000 for youth programs through Sundance Santa photos
- Provided almost \$131,000 for youth program and scholarships
- Presented the 2nd Global Awards at the Mayor's International Dinner
- Made a \$14 million economic impact on the City of Fort Worth



Right Path Right Time



“Get involved! Have specific goals, think internationally, and take advantage of our strong relationships with our Sister Cities around the globe in viable economic areas of the world.”

— Hannah Behrens, Trier Chair

For Hannah Behrens, the moment was an invitation from Carlo Capua to participate in a Sister Cities Young Professional’s exchange to Nagaoka, Japan in October of 2012. During that trip, Hannah was able to network with other young professionals, discuss development opportunities between Fort Worth and Nagaoka, and she began to think about business in terms of international opportunity.

This was at an optimal time. Fort Worth Mayor, Betsy Price, was bringing together emerging leaders in the community to discuss ways to foster and strengthen Fort Worth’s international business opportunities and Hannah, who was working for a local real estate and development company at the time, began to use this synergy to grow her business in Fort Worth.

Two thoughts remained ever present in her mind; stay connected and get involved. She accomplished those goals by joining the Fort Worth Sister Cities Board of Directors in 2014. It was a time of great transformation for the Board as the organization was focusing on involving more young professionals to get new perspectives and focus on future business initiatives.

In 2015, Hannah joined Briggs Freeman Sotheby’s International Realty team, which parlayed nicely with her work through Sister Cities. Hannah feels that the connections she and Fort Worth Sister Cities makes through home hosting, through diplomacy, and through the friendships that are formed truly help to open the conversations for international and economic development.

Do you ever stop and think about how you got to be where you are today? Do you ponder the seemingly small connections, the lucky breaks, the forces that led to you being in the right place at the right time? For many of us choosing a field for our life’s work is a difficult task. There are so many options, so much education and so many variables. Life is, after all, a choose-your-own adventure, but sometimes, we can pinpoint that one certain moment that helped us choose the right path.



(Right Time Right Path Continued)

She leveraged the power of these connections in 2016 as she led a business and professional development exchange to Trier, Germany to meet with their new mayor and celebrate our 30th anniversary with the city. She invited key business people from Fort Worth, including City Manager, David Cooke, Sundance Square President, Johnny Campbell, business owners, non-profit community developers, medical personnel, bankers, lawyers, and highly involved board members that serve in the business community of Fort Worth. This exchange provided some unique pioneering business opportunities between Fort Worth and Trier.

When asked, "What would your advice be to other young professionals who want to expand their international careers?," Hannah said, "Get involved! Have specific goals, think internationally, and take advantage of our strong relationships with our Sister Cities around the globe in viable economic areas of the world. These relationships can open the conversation for you. You can stay connected through social media, but the true value is in the face-to-face interactions. Never forget about Fort Worth's international exposure and impact. We are well poised to have a strong international presence with the strength of our Chamber of Commerce, City of Fort Worth, our international companies who reside here, and of course, Fort Worth Sister Cities." Hannah's final piece of advice is her call to action, "Mayor Price always tells us that it's OUR Fort Worth. So, now is a great time to get involved".



"Our visit to our German Sister City of Trier was an outstanding opportunity to learn about how a truly historic city maximizes its geographic location, tourism opportunities, and economic position. As City Manager of Fort Worth, it is always instructive to learn about how other governments are organized at all levels to deliver services and provide needed infrastructure for a 21st century city competing in a global marketplace. The needs of the citizens of Trier, Germany are very similar to the needs of citizens of cities in the United States. The role of local government to provide basic services and infrastructure is similar, as are the incentives to distinguish your city to make it special and stand out from a national and international standpoint."

— David Cooke,
Fort Worth City Manager



the Kurimas

What is the number one quality recruiters for work or college are looking for in candidates today? Most will tell you that candidates with a global perspective are highly sought after. It's that intangible awareness that the world is much bigger and more important than the small picture one gets from living day to day, and that tourism itself isn't enough to create an international perspective.

The Kurima family knows this all too well. In 2000, Jay Kurima was working for O.D. Wyatt High School on an International studies program and was appointed to be the International Academic Ambassador Chair to Fort Worth Sister Cities International. This was just the beginning for Jay, his wife, Heather, and son Zack.

When first recruited by Fort Worth Sister Cities, Jay expected to contribute his knowledge of environmental

sciences to the curriculum development for the International Leadership Academy (ILA), which Jay describes as "addictive." The experience was indeed just that. In 2002, Jay led a delegation of students to Nagaoka, Japan for an educational exchange. It was that trip which notably entrenched him in the mission of Fort Worth Sister Cities. He has led a delegation of students on outbound exchanges nearly every year since and has been to all eight of Fort Worth's sister cities.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the fiscal year ended September 30, 2016

Statement of Financial Position

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Total Assets | \$ 658,693 |
| Total Liabilities | 103,789 |
| Total Net Assets | 554,904 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$ 658,693 |

Statement of Financial Activities

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total Revenue and other support | \$1,100,953 |
| Expenses | |
| Programs & Exchanges | \$914,466 |
| Fundraising | 153,935 |
| General and Administrative | 81,466 |
| Total Expenses | 1,149,867 |
| Change in Net Assets (Unrestricted) | (48,914) |
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | 603,818 |
| Net Assets at End of Year | \$554,904 |

Youth and Adult Programs

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 22 | Inbound Exchanges |
| 18 | Outbound Exchanges |
| 442 | Inbound and Outbound Delegates |
| 129 | Local Programs |

Youth Exchanges

| | |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 153 | students participated - inbound |
| 64 | students participated - outbound |

| | |
|-----|------------------|
| 44% | White |
| 10% | African American |
| 22% | Hispanic |
| 24% | Asian |

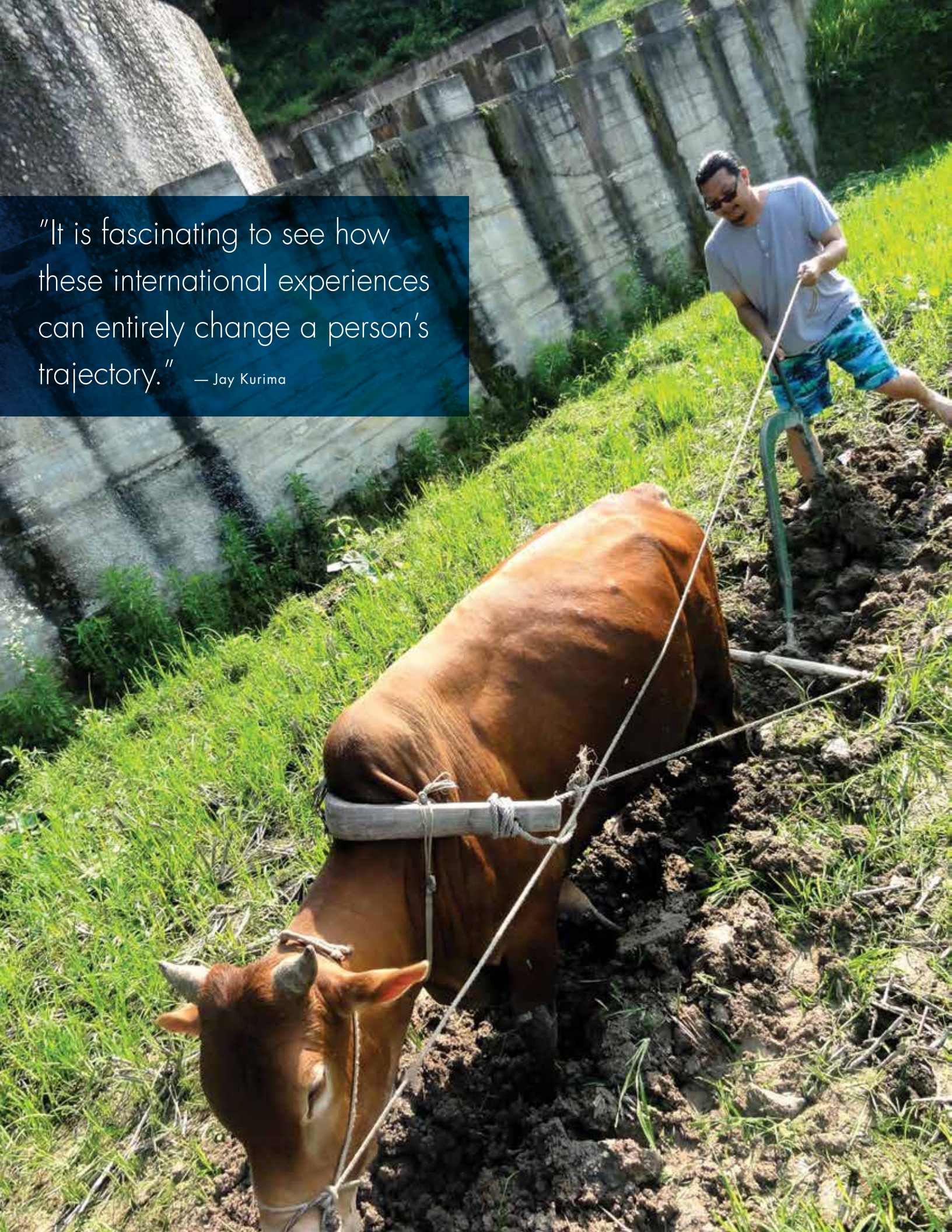
Scholarships for Youth Programs

\$130,832

Economic Impact

\$14 million

"It is fascinating to see how these international experiences can entirely change a person's trajectory." — Jay Kurima



"It is fascinating to see how these international experiences can entirely change a person's trajectory," Jay notes. He recalls a young boy from Nepal who was interviewing, nervously, for an outbound exchange to Mbabane, Swaziland, on the African continent. It was an exchange that was deeply meaningful in the boy's life; one that changed him forever. The boy shared Jay's passion and wanted to work where he could make a difference in the world. Years later, he is working to make a difference and reconnecting with his homeland by supporting his sister through her education and renewing his relationship with his mother whom he had thought to be deceased.

Jay's multi-year involvement for Fort Worth Sister Cities naturally spread to the rest of his family. His wife, Heather, who was a culinary teacher with the Culinary School of Fort Worth, is an integral part of a ten-year reciprocal culinary exchange with Reggio Emilia, Italy. She created a culinary special interest group in Fort Worth to continue these experiences for others, and she has spread her love of Italian cuisine to many students in Fort Worth, as well as given Italian students the same opportunity to learn about our unique cuisine. Through numerous opportunities in Fort Worth, Italian students have worked in some of the city's best kitchens and then returned to their home to share their knowledge with others and promote Fort Worth, Texas, and our rich heritage.

Their son, Zack, became involved with Fort Worth Sister Cities when he was in junior high by participating in the Jr. International Leadership Academy. He served as the official photographer for the high school version, the International Leadership Academy (ILA), before he was old enough to attend. And, when he was old enough, he attended ILA which led him to apply and travel to Toluca, Mexico; Nagaoka Japan; Guiyang, China; and Reggio Emilia, Italy. When he was a sophomore at Trinity University, he came back to Fort Worth to serve as an ILA facilitator, and though he is now 21 years old, he continues to work with the International Leadership Academy.

As a family, the Kurimas have home hosted more than 15 host sons and daughters from around the world. Their goal now is to host someone from each of Fort Worth's sister cities. These home hosting experiences have been incredibly meaningful for their family. In fact, they are anxiously awaiting the time when they will see their first "home host grandbaby" from a young man they hosted on an educational exchange from Mexico, affectionately called, "Polo". The Kurimas have hosted him multiple times since and Polo is like an extended member of their family, often spending Thanksgiving and Christmas with the Kurimas. Zack even served as best man at Polo's wedding.

When asked about the long-term benefits of their involvement with Fort Worth Sister Cities, the Kurimas found they had an abundance from which to choose. From countless home hosting memories, to beautiful experiences in other countries, to local international educational opportunities, and to seeing children broaden their world view leading them to change their life's trajectory—it all comes to mind. And with new knowledge came perspective — an international perspective that helped Zach when he was applying for colleges and scholarships, influenced Jay's teaching philosophy (perhaps contributing to his FWISD Teacher of the Year honor), and helped Heather grow her business internationally.

"We are so much more connected with ourselves, our family, and our world when we share who we really are," says Jay. "When we show others our true selves and we see them for who they really are, we realize we are not so different after all. Governments and countries can't be friends, but people can be and it is those connections that endure."



"Fort Worth Sister Cities has given me lasting friendships and unique experiences that have shaped the person I am today. It's allowed me to expand my horizons." — Zack Kurima



Funding and in-kind support from the City of Fort Worth play a key role in our mission, but most of our work is made possible through the support of our Members Circle. This group is a thriving network of individuals, organizations, corporations and community leaders committed to expanding global relationships for peace and prosperity at home and abroad.

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Lorraine Bretthauer
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***3-year sustaining member**

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Scholarships

Fort Worth Chapter The Links, Inc.
Fort Worth Japanese Society
Irene & Matsue Koscal
Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
Rotary Club of Fort Worth
Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
Texas Graduation Supply

Amazingly Global Race

Nicole Antonini
Jeanne Avanti
Steven Brown
Buxton Company
Angie Cappel
Darlene Carroll
Eliud Castro
Lawrence J. Cohen
Vincent Craig
Beverly Davis
Deer Ridge Ltd.
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Kara Nguyen
Brenda Norwood
Steve Ortega
James Parker
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Robert Poe
Mayor Betsy Price
Erin Rahr

Connecting Globally. Thriving Locally.

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Kendra Scott
Syl Kperta
Jay Krivanek
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Lone Star Park
McLean Middle School
Ann Rice & Patrick Miller
Mod Bakehouse
Modern Art Museum
MONDO Drummers
Mustard Seed Jewelry
Nothing Bundt Cakes
Omni Hotel Fort Worth
The Original Cupcakery
Pacific Table
Mary Palko
Panther City Five
Mayor Betsy Price
PULSE Design & Branding
Rahr & Sons Brewing Company
Reads Jewelers
Reata
Segway Fort Worth
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Simply Fondue
South Hi Mount Elementary School
Stompin' Studs
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Texas Christian University
Texas Rangers
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Times Ten Cellars
University Christian Church
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Dr. Joshua Walker
The Women's Center
The Worthington Renaissance Hotel Fort Worth
Mary & Harvey Yamagata
Z's Café

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Thank you to PULSE Design and Branding and Tarrant County College for their support in the production of this report.

We apologize for any errors and omissions

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| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
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Beth Weibel, Senior Program Manager
Katie Wharry, Associate Director for Community Engagement
Danielle McCown, Office Manager



31 Years of Excellence

Local Awards

- Bob Bolen Award for Outstanding Board Leadership – Julie Johncox
- Volunteer of the Year – Heather Kurima
- Youth Volunteer of the Year – Lauen Titsworth
- Eisenhower Award for Organizational Involvement – Kids Who Care
- Global Citizens Award – The Cliburn
- Global Nexus Award – Alcon
- Yamagata Emerging Leaders Scholar – Madeline Hale

National & International Awards

- Sister Cities International 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 Humanitarian Assistance (2012, 2009, 2008, 2004)
- Sister Cities Award for Best Overall Program (2011, 2009, 2007, 2003, 2001, 1998, 1992, 1990)
- 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)

