

**Sister Cities International
State Representative Annual Report
General State Overview**

**Exchange Report
2018**

Name of Your City: Owensboro

List all Sister City Affiliations: Olomouc, Czech Republic; Olomouc Kraj,
Czech Republic; Nisshin, Japan

Total Inbound visitors from your Sister City(s) during 2018: 26

Total Outbound visitors to your Sister City(s) during 2018: 25

Is your city a member of Sister Cities International? yes

If not, what is the reason? _____

How can Sister Cities International help your program? _____

Name of person completing this report:

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Contact person for your Sister Cities program (if different than person completing this report):

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____ Fax # _____

E-Mail: _____

~ PLEASE ATTACH A NARRATIVE OF EXCHANGE PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN YOUR CITY AND YOUR FOREIGN AFFILIATION(S) DURING THE PAST YEAR. ~

COMPLETE AND RETURN BY FEBRUARY 27, 2019 TO:

KAY SARGENT, KENTUCKY SCI STATE REPRESENTATIVE

200 E. MAIN ST.

LEXINGTON, KY 40507

E-MAIL: kays@lexingtonky.gov

FAX: (859) 425-2053

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL (859) 258-3137

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE CITY OF OWENSBORO MAYOR and CITY COMMISSION
TO THE JUDGE EXECUTIVE and DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT
TO THE CHAIR AND GRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND
OWENSBORO SISTER CITIES AND REGIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CALENDAR YEAR ACTIVITIES 2018

FOUNDING STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions encourages global understanding between our community and other world communities. The Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions organizations will assist government entities with the proper reception of foreign visitors and dignitaries by serving as the community's Office of Protocol; pursue an ongoing mission to inform and educate our community concerning our area's international cultural and business ties and their effects on our community; initiate exchange programs in education, business, professional groups, and the arts; assist government and its agencies in promoting our community's cultural heritage through our Sister City(s) and Region's relationships; encourage development and expansion of international trade relationships and assist with foreign trade missions; assist community organizations in direct relationships with similar organizations in our Sister City(s) and Regions and elsewhere in the world, where possible.

SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL HISTORY AND MISSION

Sister Cities International was created at President Eisenhower's 1956 White House conference on citizen diplomacy. Eisenhower envisioned an organization that could be the hub of peace and prosperity by creating bonds between people from different cities around the world. By forming these relationships, President Eisenhower reasoned that people of different cultures could celebrate and appreciate their differences and build partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts.

Sister Cities International creates relationships based on cultural, educational, information and trade exchanges, creating lifelong friendships that provide prosperity

and peace through person-to-person “citizen diplomacy.” Since then, Presidents Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama, and now President Donald Trump have served as the Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International.

Since its inception, Sister Cities International has played a key role in renewing and strengthening important global relationships. Early partnerships included a trading relationship between Seattle, Washington and Tokyo, Japan, repairing post-WWII tensions by creating cultural and educational exchanges and, subsequently, lasting friendships. A 1974 study found that many early sister city relationships formed out of the post WWII aid programs to Western Europe. The relationships that endured, however, were based on cultural or educational reasons that developed lasting friendships. Sister Cities International improved diplomatic relationships at watershed moments over the past 63 years, including partnerships with China in the 1970s.

In the new millennium, Sister Cities International continues to expand its reach to new and emerging regions of the world. Today, it dedicates a special focus on areas with significant opportunities for cultural and educational exchanges, economic partnerships, and humanitarian assistance. (SCI, 2016)

In July of 1994 there was a joint resolution signed by the officials of Owensboro, Kentucky and Olomouc Czech Republic to formally recognize our two cities as Sister Cities in accordance with the accepted protocols of Sister Cities International, thus making this the 25th anniversary of this partnership. The City of Nisshin Shi, Japan was formally recognized as our Sister City in October of 2006.

INTRODUCTION

During 2018, Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions participated in a total of 6 exchanges, subject components encompassing the involvement of 51 people. Of these, 26 persons were incoming visitors to Owensboro and 25 were outgoing visitors.

As community leaders we must continue to promote both the understanding of our citizens and our connection to the larger global community. We will need continued financial, logistical, and volunteer support for the program to be maintained and grow even further.

Please review this report and reflect on our ability to project the City of Owensboro and our region positively in the international community. We believe that we have the most active program of the official fourteen U.S. – Czech Republic Sister City relationships and that the breadth of our program will reflect well on the Owensboro region with any additional international contacts that the city or region may make. Our program has

come to the positive attention of the past Presidents and dignitaries of the Czech Republic and United States. We continue to apprise the U.S. Ambassadors to the Czech Republic and Japan of our activity through this annual report.

The Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions program touches the lives of several hundred people involved in our annual exchange activities on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The program does an exceptional job of carrying out its charged mission with the help of passionate members. In the past, this program has been very dependent on support from government entities, as an official international link with the Sister Cities, currently the overwhelming financial support for the program comes from individuals and donations from the businesses and institutions participating in the programs. We can demonstrate at least \$20.00 of community support for each city and county budget dollar allocated.

We are very appreciative of the City of Owensboro and Brescia University for their financial and logistical support efforts. The program represents a wonderful community partnership combining the efforts of many community institutions, agencies, businesses and individuals. There can be little doubt for the need to educate our Kentucky citizens concerning our place in the global community. Whether for citizenship education, student growth or workforce development, there is an ever growing demand for providing an international education, cultural experience and economic development component for the regional community we serve.

We would also like to thank the families who open their homes (and kitchens), to the hotels in lodging assistance, and to the three area school systems for support of our exchanges of students, teachers, and professors. There are just too many people and entities to mention individually. We also strive to make visitors feel welcomed.

Recently, communication has been made with our Sister City of Nisshin, Japan. It is the wishes of the board to reinvigorate this partnership and work with the Economic Development Cooperation to grow and strengthen the relationship.

As representatives of the citizens of Owensboro and Daviess County, we request your continued encouragement and financial support for Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions and our international efforts to promote our community.

Incoming Exchange: 10/8 – 12/5, 2018 Caritas College of Social Work
Elaine Wright, Coordinator (3 in)

Purpose: Three visiting students from the Caritas College of Social Work came to Owensboro as part of an international exchange between our schools. They completed social work internships with Hospice of Western Kentucky and Audubon Area Services. This relationship was a demonstration of the many layers of impact that has come out of the Sister Cities program.

Incoming Exchange: October 13 - 29, 2018 Secondary Exchange
Kelia West, Coordinator (9 in)

Purpose: This is a long-standing relationship between Owensboro high schools and Hejcin Gymnasium in Olomouc, Czech Republic. Teachers and students alternate visits. This year, it was Owensboro's turn to host Hejcin Gymnasium. Hejcin students were assigned home stays and were partnered with an Owensboro high school student in order to participate in classroom instruction, explore various cities in Kentucky, and to learn about the United States culture. Lifelong friendships were established through this program and the students' worlds become a little smaller and enriched.

Activity: November, 2018 Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting
Adrienne Carrico, Executive Director (OSCAR)
Beck Glenn, President (OSCAR)
(2 participants)

Purpose: The Kentucky cities chartered under Sister Cities International are invited to gather annually to give reports on their individual international activities during the past year and to exchange ideas for their organizations. The City of Danville hosted this year's meeting. Best practices and fundraising success stories were discussed.
