

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

**Exchange Report  
2019**

Name of Your City: Owensboro

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

Total Inbound visitors from your Sister City(s) during 2019: 5

- Arts & Culture \_\_\_\_\_
- Business, Trade 1
- Municipal, Humanitarian \_\_\_\_\_
- Youth and Education 4

Total Outbound visitors to your Sister City(s) during 2019: 10

- Arts & Culture \_\_\_\_\_
- Business, Trade \_\_\_\_\_
- Municipal, Humanitarian 2
- Youth and Education 8

Did you have any students attend the SCI Annual Youth Leadership Summit? No  
If so, how many? \_\_\_\_\_

Did your city participate in the SCI Young Artist & Author's Showcase? No

Are you looking for a Sister City? If so, what area are you interested in? No

Did you have any students participate in the SCI high school home exchange program? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your city a member of Sister Cities International? yes

If not, what is the reason? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the most beneficial service SCI can provide you? Assistance with

paperwork/documentation required for Homestay placements.

Name of person completing this report:

Name: Adrienne Carrico

Position: Executive Director

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and return by February 17, 2020 to:**

**Kay Sargent  
SCI Kentucky State Representative  
200 E. Main St.  
Lexington, KY 40507**

**E-MAIL: [kays@lexingtonky.gov](mailto: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  
OWENSBORO SISTER CITIES AND REGIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CALENDAR YEAR ACTIVITIES 2019

### **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 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this partnership. The City of Nisshin Shi, Japan was formally recognized as our Sister City in October of 2006.

## **INTRODUCTION**

During 2019, Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions participated in a total of 6 exchanges, subject components encompassing the involvement of 15 people. Of these, 5 persons were incoming visitors to Owensboro and 10 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 \$25.00 of community support for each city 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 four area school systems and four institutions of higher learning 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.**

## **OWENSBORO SISTER CITIES AND REGIONS – EXCHANGES/ACTIVITIES 2019**

During 2019, Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions sponsored outgoing and incoming exchanges to our Sister City of Olomouc, Czech Republic and Sister Region of Olomouc Kraj. Reflected in this report are participation in various activities by Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions. The following components were addressed by these exchanges and activities:

**Activity:** **May 2019 Girl Scouts Pen Pal Communication**  
**Katherine Zboril, Coordinator (40 participants)**

**Purpose:** Pen pal communication is being formed between the local Owensboro Girl Scout troop (Troop 1798) and the Girl Scout troop in Doloplazy, Czech Republic near Olomouc, with the ultimate goal being a future Girl Scout exchange.

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**Activity:** **July 28, 2019 International Scout Exchange Meeting**  
**Katherine Zboril, Coordinator (10 participants)**

**Purpose:** Board Vice-President Katherine Zboril attended the World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. In support of revitalizing a relationship between the Owensboro and Olomouc Scouts, she met with the Scout Master and eight youth from Olomouc. They discussed creating a partnership and developing an annual scouting exchange.

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**Incoming Exchange:** **8/1/19 – 6/1/20 Secondary Exchange**  
**Katerina Hrabalikova – Educational Exchange (1 in)**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this exchange was for Katerina Hrabalikova, a student from the Czech Republic, to participate in a year-long student exchange. While in Owensboro, Katerina is attending Owensboro High School, where she is a starter for the JV and Varsity girl's basketball teams. Katerina loves Owensboro and would like to come back for college.

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**Activity:** **August 17, 2019 Multicultural Festival (8 participants)**

**Purpose:** OSCAR Board members participated in the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Multicultural Festival. Since the inception of this festival, Owensboro Sister Cities and Regions has participated. Representing both Olomouc, Czech Republic and Nisshin, Japan, our booth displayed traditional Czech and Japanese handmade goods and volunteers provided visitors with educational information and activities.

**Incoming Exchange:** 9/11/19 – 10/3/19  
Katherine Zboril, Coordinator (1 in)

**Purpose:** Tereza Zbořilová presented to the board about the proposed exchange with the Brno Fire Department. They currently have an exchange in Austria for their German speaking employees and are looking forward to the opportunity in Owensboro for their English speaking employees. The exchange will take place over 8 days to learn about common firefighting skills but also techniques/issue unique to each area. It would begin with an Owensboro group going there in 2020 and their group coming here in 2021. Each group will consist of 8 firefighters and will be hosted in each city by the firefighter families. The Owensboro group would consist of 4 firefighters from the City of Owensboro and 4 from Daviess County. The exchange is pending approval from the CEO of the Brno Fire Department.

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**Outgoing Exchange:** 9/26/19 – 10/11/19  
Ross Leigh and Elaine Wright, Coordinators (2 out)

**Purpose:** To introduce new Co-Executive Director Ross Leigh and Secretary Elaine Wright to the City of Olomouc and its connections at City Hall, Hejcin Gymnasium, and Caritas College of Social Work. Participants were guided by Sister Cities Representative Zdenka Podlipska. During this trip, Elizabeth Griffith with the Greater Owensboro Economic Development Corporation, Ross, and Elaine were able to meet with the Olomouc Mayor to discuss possible future economic development opportunities between our two cities. Elaine Wright also provided two lectures at Caritas College, had meetings with faculty and students, visited local social service organizations, and a MOU between Caritas and Brescia University was finalized and signed.

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**Outgoing Exchange:** 9/26/19 – 10/11/19 Secondary Exchange  
Kelia West, Coordinator (8 out)

**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 Olomouc's turn to host Owensboro students. Students were assigned home stays and were partnered with an Olomouc high school student in order to participate in classroom instruction, explore various cities, and to learn about the Czech Republic culture. Students toured City Hall and met the Deputy Mayor of Education. Lifelong friendships were established through this program and the students' worlds become a little smaller and enriched.

**Incoming Exchange: 10/4/19 – 12/8/19 Caritas College of Social Work**  
**Elaine Wright, OSCAR Liaison (2 in)**

**Purpose:** Two visiting students from the Caritas College of Social Work came to Owensboro as part of an international exchange with Brescia University. They completed social work internships with Hospice of Western Kentucky and the Senior Community Center of Owensboro. This relationship was a demonstration of the many layers of impact that has come out of the Sister Cities program.

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**Activity: November, 2019 Kentucky Sister Cities State Meeting**  
**Ross Leigh, Co-Executive Director (1 participant)**

**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 Frankfort hosted this year's meeting. Organizing student internships, building relationships with City/County Commissioners, partnering with local colleges, and coordinating exchanges with the Rotary Club were discussed.

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**Incoming Exchange: November 2019 – June 2020 Educational Exchange**  
**Ross Leigh, Co-Executive Director (1 in)**

**Purpose:** Honza, a high school student from Beroun, Czech Republic is staying with the family of OSCAR Co-Executive Director, Ross Leigh, while participating in a traditional academic student exchange.