
**THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COORDINATING COUNCIL WINS SISTER CITIES
INTERNATIONAL'S INNOVATION AWARD FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

WASHINGTON, DC – The City of Coral Gables International Affairs Coordinating Council (IACC) has won Sister Cities International's (SCI) 2016 Innovation Award for Humanitarian Assistance for a city with a population less than 100,000. The 2016 Sister Cities International Innovation Award for Humanitarian Assistance recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

On September 24, 2014, Mayor Jim Cason of Coral Gables proposed the project of providing fire trucks and rescue/emergency equipment to the Municipal Fire Department of La Antigua, Guatemala. Although the sister cities of Coral Gables and La Antigua, Guatemala have enjoyed cultural exchanges since 1993, this was the first time in 23 years that the sister city relationship led to a humanitarian exchange.

The equipment is now being used by the Municipal Fire Department to provide enhanced fire and emergency response within the city of La Antigua and neighboring towns that will help protect over 45,000 residents. Commissioner Miranda-Mauri, the Consulado General de Guatemala and the City of Coral Gables International Affairs Foundation presented the first International Sister City Booth at the Coral Gables Farmers Market on March 19, 2016. The public enjoyed free food and products from Malher, Pollo Campero, Yuz, Del Frutal, made possible by la Municipalida de La Antigua Guatemala and Consulado General de Guatemala in celebration of the donation of the city of Coral Gables.

SCI's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts and Culture, Economic Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth and Education), and Volunteer of the Year. Award winners will be honored at the Lou Wozar Diplomatic Awards Dinner on Saturday, July 16 during SCI's 60th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, DC.

SCI's 60th anniversary celebration will include an [Annual Conference](#) and [Youth Leadership Summit](#) in Washington, DC July 13-16, 2016. The celebration will bring together hundreds of the most influential global leaders in diplomacy, foreign affairs, policy, business, and innovation. Elected and municipal officials, business leaders, youth delegates, and citizen diplomats will discuss this year's theme "Peace through People," building on President Eisenhower's initial vision of creating a more peaceful world by building global relationships.

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About Sister Cities International

Founded as a Presidential Initiative by Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for 570 member communities with 2,300 partnerships in 150 countries on six continents. The sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and understanding through economic development, youth and education, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.



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