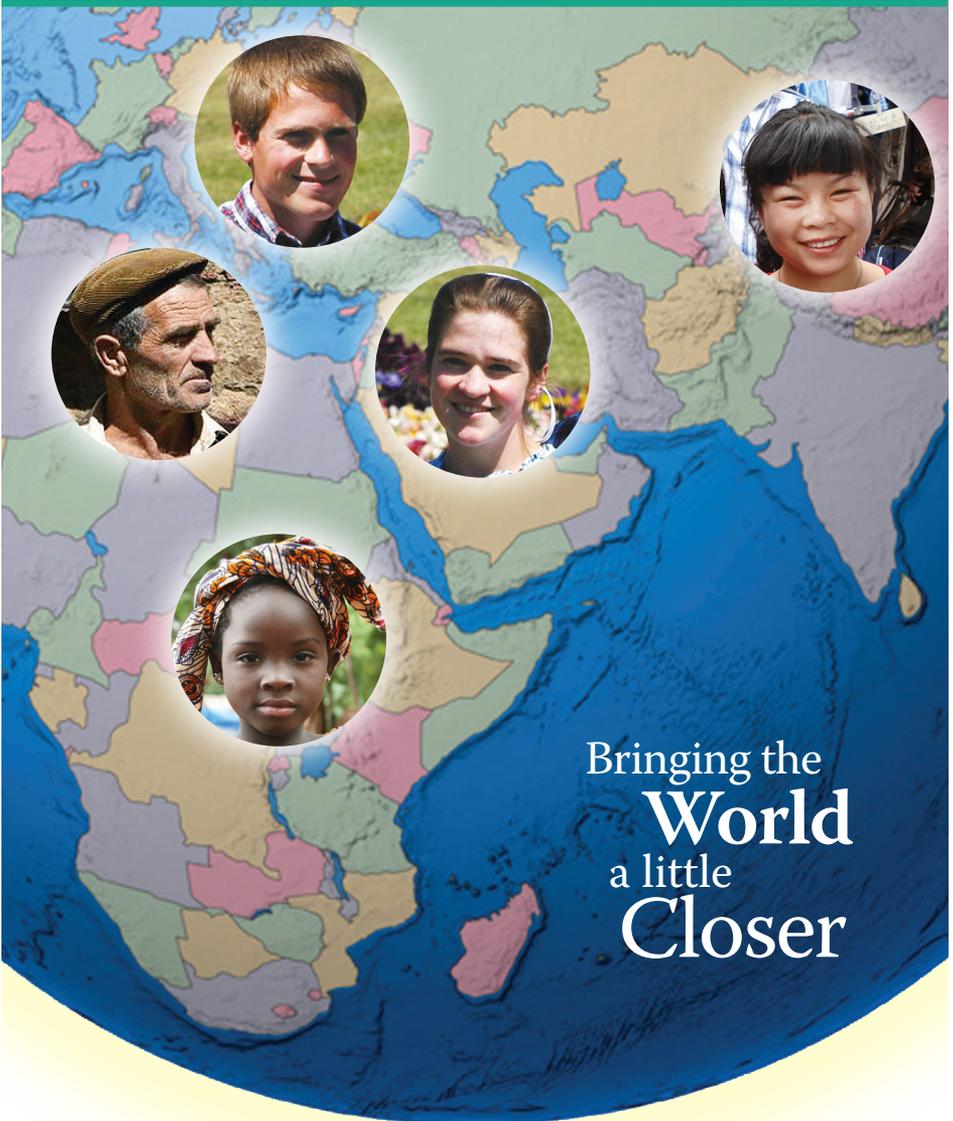




International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY, Inc.
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Bringing the
World
a little
Closer

Highlights of ISCOR's 2018/2019 year between Rochester and its sister cities:

RENNES: Music, dance, art and community characterized the past year for the Rennes committee. The high note was leading the community in traditional folk dances of Brittany at our "Fest Noz." We also facilitated in a Rennes-Rochester youth artwork competition, attended the 75th anniversary of Rennes' WWII liberation, and continued our signature annual events—our Bastille Day picnic in July and our Welcome to Rochester gathering for college exchange students in late August. —Hannah Barry, *Co-Chair*

WÜRZBURG: 2019 marked the 55th year of the partnership between Rochester and Würzburg. In June, a group of students from Würzburg's University of Music collaborated with students from the Eastman School of Music for performances in the CGI Rochester International Jazz Festival. Accompanying the group was Bürgermeisterin Marion Schäfer-Blake. In September, we hosted a group of runners in the Rochester Marathon. Highlighting that event were four Sister Cities relay teams with runners from both Rochester and Würzburg as team mates. —Dean Ekberg, *Chair*

CALTANISSETTA: Inspired by Rochester's sister cities organization, leaders of the Caltanissetta-Rochester Sister Cities relationship's 50th Ann. delegation, who visited Rochester in 2017, established AGERICA, a full-blown sister cities organization for Caltanissetta. In April the Rochester committee chairperson signed formal cooperation agreements with AGERICA and City of Caltanissetta. —Rosalba Pisaturo, *Chair*

REHOVOT: A successful series of activities occurred during the recent past, including a visit to Rehovot by Mayor Lovely Warren and ISCOR President Carolee Conklin in 2015, a two-way youth exchange in 2016 and 2017, and City Councilmember Mitch Gruber's meetings in Rehovot in 2018. The Rochester-Rehovot Sister Cities Committee has been in contact with the Rehovot Mayor's Office and Havayot Community Center staff to explore new activities for the future. —Daniel Karin, *Chair*

THE KRAKÓW committee has continued to work with Rochester Polish-American community organizations and the University of Rochester to support relationships with Kraków. While its October 2018 Kraków Christmas Crèche workshop was cancelled for low registration, several committee supporters displayed those they had made in 2007-2009 workshops at the traditional Polish Christmas Eve dinner, *Wigilia*. The committee was recognized for its support of the Polish-American community of Rochester at the 100th Anniversary Dinner of Rochester's Polonia Civic Center. —Michael Leach, *Chair*

BAMAKO: The 2018-2019 program year served to follow-up with communications resulting from the visit of the Mayoral Delegation (2017) and Association for Teen-Age Diplomat alumna Altine Traoré (2018). Discussions centered on how the Rochester committee might address community development, needs of individuals with disabilities, and a lack of medical supplies within Bamako clinics. In August 2019, with the travel of two committee members to Ghana to commemorate "The Year of Return," 90 lbs. of medical supplies were transported to Bamako via Accra. The shipment was made possible with a \$250 donation raised by members given to InterVol for the medical supplies and eye glasses received from local vendors. —Alicia Ward, *Chair*

WATERFORD: A delegation of 24 citizen diplomats visited Waterford in July to celebrate the 35th anniversary of our sister cities tie. A key event was a stakeholders dinner with Waterford government, business, education, and community leaders. Ceremonies in Waterford and Rochester recognized Bausch + Lomb, which is expanding operations in both cities, as a foundational company in both communities by award of ISCOR's first International Sister Cities Corporate Citizen Award. The

Irish Ambassador to the U.S. Daniel Mulhall was keynote speaker at the Rochester event. Rochester and Waterford university ties continue to grow. St. John Fisher college and WIT's Schools of Nursing recently received a \$6.2 M grant from the Golisano Foundation to develop curriculum and train nurses to better serve young people with special needs.
–Tom O'Connell, *Chair*

VELIKIY NOVGOROD: In January Linkages partnered with the Eastman Community Music School to sponsor a concert of music by Russian composers in Kilbourn Hall. For its 28th year Linkages sent two teachers from Rochester to Novgorod during the summer to help Novgorod educators improve their English language skills and maintain their certification as English language instructors. In October 2019 Linkages Board member, Barbara LeSavoy, chair of the Women and Gender Studies Department at the College at Brockport, represented Linkages and the City of Rochester at a Russian-US Sister Cities Municipal Forum in Moscow sponsored by Sister Cities International and the Union of Russian Cities. Linkages plans to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship in 2020.
–Paul Caccamise, *Chair*

HAMAMATSU: Dr. Jefferson Svengsouk visited Hamamatsu in January and established ties with Emergency Medicine and Palliative Care medical communities. He visited City Hall and toured the Flower Park where the irises that were a gift from Rochester are displayed. HRSCC co-sponsored with Wegmans a Children's Day Celebration on May 5. On May 11th it presented a display of cultural items and a repeating slide show of images from Hamamatsu at the Memorial Art Gallery Asian Heritage Celebration and instructed visitors in origami paper folding at a popular "Make It and Take It" crafts activity station.
– Jefferson Svengsouk, MD, *Chair*

PUERTO PLATA: 2019 saw the culmination of a nine-year cooperation between the Rochester and Puerto Plata fire departments. Three fire trucks donated by the City of Rochester, an ambulance donated by American Medical Response, and 13 tons of surplus firefighting gear, tools, hose and emergency response gear were sent to Puerto Plata via US Air Force Reserve training flight (Denton Program). This followed a 2010 needs assessment, 2012 training and 2013 vehicle and equipment donations. Puerto Plata representatives report that the donations have been shared with departments throughout the Puerto Plata Province and have inspired National Government support of fire departments throughout the country. Rochester and Puerto Plata committees are planning the development of a Provincial firefighter training program. Assistance to Puerto Plata elementary schools continues.
–Relton Roland, *Chair*

XIANYANG: Personnel changes in Xianyang have resulted in a quiet year for the Xianyang-Rochester committee. We have received word that Xianyang's Mayor may visit Rochester in late 2019 or early 2020.
–Michael Coniff, *Chair*

ALYTUS: Under a Memorandum of Understanding between Alytus College and SUNY-Geneseo, a two-week course titled *Intercultural Communication* will be taught, in Alytus by the Vice-Chair of our Committee Prof. Algis Bulsys and at Geneseo by Prof. R. Radlinskaite of Alytus College. In September more than 100 attended the 10th anniversary reception held in honor of Alytus Mayor Nerius Česiulis and Vice-Mayor Jurgita Šukevičienė, at which Mayor Česiulis proclaimed our Education Committee Chair Jolanda Chesonis "Global Ambassador of the City of Alytus." Carol and Arvydas Cieminis organized a fundraiser which raised \$1,000 to help a newly established nursing home for former deportees to Siberia by the Soviet occupiers. –Rimas Chesonis, *Chair*

We're looking forward to an equally exciting 2019/2020 year!

Submitted by the Executive Committee of the ISCOR Board of Trustees.

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