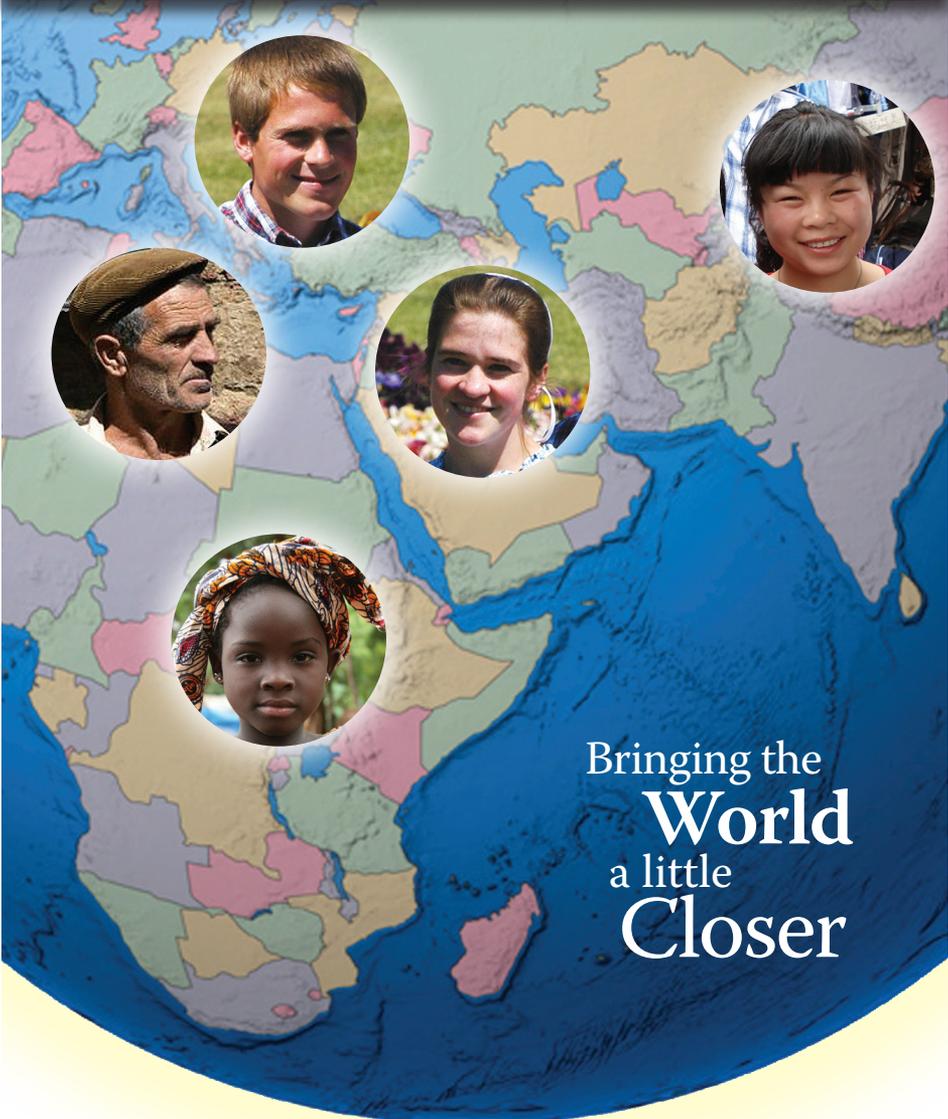




International Sister Cities of Rochester, NY Inc. 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Bringing the
World
a little
Closer

ISCOR's 2015/2016 year *has been full of activities that have benefited Rochester and its sister cities:*

RENNES: Student exchanges at the high school and university levels continue to be the largest and most successful exchange between Rennes and Rochester. The Rennes-Rochester Sister Cities Committee augmented its support of these programs with the launch of a small scholarship for Rochester's Rennes-bound undergraduate students. In July 2016, the committee also held a Bastille Day celebration in Webster Park together with the Alliance Française de Rochester to bring together the city's francophone community.

—Hannah Barry, *Chair*

WÜRZBURG: Eight Eastman School of Music students, the Eastman Wind Ensemble Harmonie, performed at the 2016 Mozart Festival in Würzburg. Rochester, in turn, was visited by the girls' choir from Würzburg's cathedral, the Mädchenkantorei am Würzburger Dom, August 29th through September 2nd. Twenty-six families served as hosts to the 52 girls during their stay. Performances at Asbury First United Methodist Church and St. Mary's Church were well-attended. Sixteen of the girls performed and were interviewed on WXXI-FM's classical music broadcast as the choir toured station facilities. They gave a mini-concert for Mayor Warren at City Hall; were given a private organ recital by Prof. Edoardo Bellotti at the Memorial Art Gallery; and enjoyed a picnic hosted by the Rochester Schwaben Verein.

—Dean Ekberg, *Chair*

CALTANISSETTA: Mayor Giovanni Ruvolo led a delegation of 20 from Caltanissetta to Rochester during the second week of October 2015 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our sister city ties. They visited Niagara Falls and other area tourist attractions. Several met with local business leaders and educators to explore future exchanges. The week ended with a Gala evening during which Mayor Lovely Warren and Mayor Ruvolo signed a Reaffirmation of the Sister Cities Relationship. To kick off the next 50 years of friendship, Mayor Warren will lead a Rochester delegation on a visit to Caltanissetta during Easter Week 2017.

—Rosalba Pisaturo, *Chair*

REHOVOT: The first phase of the Rochester-Rehovot youth exchange concluded successfully on August 23. Two adult and twelve teens from Rehovot arrived on August 15, and during the next several days, youth from both cities got to know each other and their diverse cultures during basketball and volleyball games, at picnics, at Lasertron, during a camp out, and trip to Niagara Falls. The second phase of this exchange, a trip by several City youth to Rehovot next summer, is in preparation. Great thanks are due to the City's Recreation staff, the Max and Marian Charitable Foundation, the Jewish Community Center, Wegman's, and MVP Health Care.

—Daniel Karin, *Chair*

KRAKÓW: The Kraków committee has continued to work with Rochester Polish-American community organizations and the University of Rochester to support relationships with Kraków. The Kraków committee, the Polish Language School at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, and the Polish Heritage Society of Rochester presented samples of and a recipe for traditional Polish crêpes, "naleśniki," at the "Flavors of Rochester at the Market" at the Rochester Public Market.

—Michael Leach, *Chair*

BAMAKO: The program year began prayerfully in the wake of the November 20th attack of the Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako. The committee and Mayor Lovely Warren sent condolence letters to Governor Adama Traoré, Mayor Bamako District. Local media reports of the attack featured interviews with the committee's founder Dr. Walter Cooper and ISCOR Board leaders. The program year ended cheerfully with the celebration of the committee's 40th Anniversary in City Hall Atrium honored by the presence of H.E. Tièna Coulibaly, Malian Ambassador to the US, accompanied by his advisor Alpha Konaté, Economic Assistant, Malian Embassy. They met with ranking

officials within local non-profits, hospitals, universities, arts, and government. The Ambassador was a featured guest on “Connections with Evan Dawson” on WXXI Radio. The City’s Black Heritage Ball culminated the festivities and featured the ambassador as a special guest.

—Alicia Ward, *Chair*

WATERFORD: Exchanges continue to strengthen between St. John Fisher College and the Waterford Institute of Technology in fields of medicine and Irish Studies.

—Tom O’Connell, *Chair*

VELIKIY NOVGOROD: As part of its 20 year program, Linkages sent teacher Sarah St. Denis of the English Language Center at RIT, to Velikiy Novgorod to conduct a two week seminar to help Russian teachers of English improve their language and teaching skills and learn about American culture and history. A teacher from Novgorod, Svetlana Buzulutskaya, will come to Rochester for three weeks in October to visit Rochester schools and learn about the American education system. Also in October, Linkages will bring a professor from the Women and Gender Studies at Novgorod State University to Rochester to attend and present at the biennial Seneca Falls Dialogues on Women’s Rights. Finally, an Open World delegation from Novgorod will arrive in Rochester at the end of October to spend a week visiting programs and agencies that serve persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

—Paul Caccamise, *Chair*

HAMAMATSU: The committee participated in the “Asian Pacific American Heritage Family Day” at the Memorial Art Gallery in May. It was joined in its observance of the 20th anniversary of the sister cities relationship in October 2016 by an official Hamamatsu delegation led by Hamamatsu City Director General Yutaka Yamana and Rochester-Hamamatsu Friendship Committee Chair Hiroko Washizu. The delegation visited various cultural, educational, and business organizations during their stay.

—Yuko Matsuda, *Chair*

PUERTO PLATA: The committee continues its preparation of a major second shipment for the Puerto Plata Fire Department as a part of the Firefighters Assistance Project. Through the kindness of many local fire departments and American Medical Response, we have amassed several thousand pounds of useful firefighting equipment and vehicles for Puerto Plata. The first shipment benefited virtually every citizen of Puerto Plata and the northeastern Dominican Republic. We believe this shipment will enhance that outcome. We hope to ship in early 2017 for the 20th anniversary of our sister cities relationship.

—Relton Roland, *Chair*

XIANYANG: Miss Yenfeng Bai of Xianyang is working on a year-long internship for Rochester Refugee Resettlement Services working on a Health Opportunities grant helping refugees get jobs in the health field. In February her father, leaving an assignment of consul in Turkey, and her mother visited her in Rochester and met with Michael Coniff, Carolee Conklin, and Michael Leach to discuss relations with Xianyang

—Michael Coniff, *Chair*

ALYTUS: Jan Naujokas traveled to Alytus this summer and met with the Mayor, the High School with which we partner, and the local orphanage director. We partnered this summer with the Rochester Lithuanian- American Community in bringing the folk dance ensemble “Ave Vita” from Lithuania for a performance at the Hochstein School of Music. In September, we offered samples of cheese imported from Lithuania and a Lithuanian wedding cake at the “Flavors of Rochester at the Market.”

—Rimas Chesonis, *Chair*

We’re looking forward to an equally exciting 2016/2017 year!

Submitted by the Executive Committee of the ISCOR Board of Trustees

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