



SISTER CITIES  
OF NASHVILLE

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR  
SISTER CITIES OF NASHVILLE, INC.  
FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2009 TO JUNE 30, 2010

Sister Cities of Nashville is an affiliate of Sister Cities International.

*We connect the people of Nashville to the people of the world, promoting peace through mutual respect,  
understanding and cooperation -- one person, one community at a time.*

## SISTER CITIES OF NASHVILLE – ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT FOR 2009-2010

### GENERAL STATEMENT OF MISSION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES THAT SERVE METRO NASHVILLE RESIDENTS

The mission of Sister Cities of Nashville (hereinafter referred to as “Sister Cities of Nashville and/or SCN”) is to foster understanding among citizens of Nashville and other cultures of the world. It is an active volunteer organization connecting Nashvillians with friends around the world through cultural exchange and community partnership. The mission of the organization is to promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, & cooperation — one individual, one community at a time.

This will be accomplished through:

1. Developing long-term global community partnerships that create opportunities for people to experience and explore each other’s cultures;
2. Creating an environment that promotes an international perspective, an appreciation and celebration of the richness of the diversity of cultures in Nashville and the acceptance of all nationalities, religions and ethnic backgrounds;
3. Providing educational opportunities for communities to learn creatively, work and solve problems together through reciprocal arts and cultural, educational, municipal, business, professional, and technical exchanges of citizens and projects; and
4. Collaborating with other organizations with similar goals.

Through Sister Cities, hundreds of foreign citizens get to see and experience Nashville and to meet Nashvillians, and Nashvillians of all ages and walks of life get the chance to visit foreign countries and experience their cultures. This promotes a better appreciation of what America really is and helps to overcome stereotypes and hostilities caused by policy disagreement between our nations. Sister Cities of Nashville helps to promote world peace.

Sister Cities of Nashville, originally founded by the Mayor’s office, was incorporated as a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation in December of 1990 by a group of dedicated Nashville volunteers. SCN is a membership organization led by a community Board of Directors with a paid Executive Director working in cooperation with the Mayor’s Office of Economic and Community Development. Mayor Karl Dean is the Honorary Chairman.

Nashville now has six official sister cities. The first Sister Cities Charter was signed in 1991 with Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. An active relationship has existed since the late 1970s with Caen, France, which was formally recognized as an official Sister City relationship in 1991. In May of 1995, Nashville formally entered into a relationship with Belfast, Northern Ireland. In May of 2003, Nashville signed the charter formally recognizing Magdeburg, the capital of the state of Saxony-Anhalt, in the former East Germany, as Nashville’s German sister city. In April of 2007, Mayor Bill Purcell led an official delegation to Taiyuan, China, to sign a sister cities charter with that city. In March 2009, Mayor Karl Dean traveled with a delegation to Mendoza, Argentina to sign a charter making that sister city partnership official. In January 2010, Mayor Dean signed a Mutual Agreement of Understanding with Gwangjin-gu, Metropolitan Seoul, South Korea.

Additionally, we have committees exploring relationships with Diyarbakir, Turkey; and Kamakura, Japan. Members have expressed additional interest in partnerships in Australia, Africa, Mexico, Italy, Spain and Russia.

Sister Cities of Nashville is a chapter of Sister Cities International which developed from a program begun in 1956 by President Dwight Eisenhower to promote international goodwill through citizen diplomacy. Originally housed as part of the National League of Cities, SCI became a separate nonprofit corporation in 1967 and is funded through a core grant from the Department of State. The Honorary Chairman of Sister Cities International is the President of the United States – a distinction afforded to only a few associations.

Sister Cities is committed to the collaborative process with other Nashville organizations and institutions. The partnership with the Nashville Bar Association has been vital to the success of the Caen program. SCN has also worked closely with Metro Schools, Alliance Francaise, the YMCA, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Greater Nashville Korean American Association, the American Council on Germany, German-American Chamber of Commerce, the Ulster Project, U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, Lipscomb University, Tennessee State University, Watkins College of Art and Design, the Adventure Science Center, the Metropolitan Nashville Public Library, Preston Taylor Ministries, Martha O'Bryan Center and others.

## II. SIGNIFICANT PROGRAMS COMPLETED IN 2009-2010

### A. CAEN, FRANCE

- Sister Cities sponsored and manned a booth at the Foire de Caen in Sept. 2009, the annual fair, handing out literature and products from Nashville and Tennessee. Thousands of people attend this 10-day fair in Caen.
- A SCN delegation and Nashville Bar Association/Sister City Committee traveled to Caen in October 2009 to participate in legal discussions/presentations there as well as tour the area. Twenty one Nashvillians participated in the exchange.
- SCN hosted a law student from Caen in July 2009, who interned in Mayor Karl Dean's office. She stayed with four area families. SCN hosted an additional student in May/June 2010 who stayed with two local families and interned in Mayor Dean's office for 6 weeks. In addition to regular office duties and research, she worked at the Hot Chicken Festival.

### B. BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

- SCN had a small delegation travel to Belfast in January 2010 to discuss possible future exchanges and how to enhance the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Festival.
- A delegation of musicians traveled to Belfast in February 2010 to participate in the Belfast Nashville Musical Showcase. Two Nashville students currently living in Belfast also volunteered at the Festival.

- Vanderbilt University and Queens University in Belfast each hosted an exchange student in the 2009-2010 academic year.

- SCN hosted the Belfast Nashville Songwriters' Showcase in March 2010, with musicians from both cities performing in several public venues including the Belcourt Theatre and Dan McGuinness Irish Pub, reaching an audience of approximately 500. A delegation of five city officials, including Councillor William Humphrey, in addition to 5 musicians and the Pan Arts organization founders visited Nashville. Belfast city officials met with Mayor Karl Dean, Jim Hester/Music, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Convention & Visitor's Bureau, the Nashville Arts & Business Council, the Better Business Bureau and the Nashville Symphony. Councillor Humphrey was also invited to participate in Andrew Jackson's birthday ceremonies at the Hermitage. Approximately 75 were in attendance for the ceremony. Belfast also provided the Hermitage with a permanent display, featuring many famous Tennesseans who are Scots-Irish descendants.

### C. MAGDEBURG

- Sister Cities hosted three young German students in 2009-2010 who worked at social agencies in Nashville: the Martha O'Bryan Center, Preston Taylor Ministries, and Siloam Family Health Center. The students all stayed with local Nashville families for the 10 month period.

- Sister Cities conducted a reciprocal student exchange with Magdeburg in 2010. Ten students from Magdeburg spent two weeks in Nashville in March/April. Six Nashville students traveled to Magdeburg in June 2010, stayed with local families, visited area attractions and met local officials.

- In October 2009, SCN sponsored "Magdeburg: Autumn 1989," a series of events to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin wall. The events were free and open to the general public. Members of the Magdeburg delegation stayed with Nashville families.

#### **Event Summary:**

#### **Magdeburg's Puppet Theatre**

**Thursday, October 8 and Friday, October 9, 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.**

Magdeburg's world famous puppet theatre performance of "Oscar and the Lady in Pink" at Nashville's Downtown Public Library. The shows, which were free and open to the general public, attracted a total attendance of approximately 200.

#### **"Environmental Issues before and after German Reunification: the Example of the Magdeburg City Public Works Department"**

**Thursday, October 8, 11:30 a.m.**

Helmut Herdt, Director of Magdeburg Public Works, spoke on "Environmental Issues before and after German Reunification: the Example of the Magdeburg City Public Works Department" at the Ezell Center at David Lipscomb University. Forty guests attended the lunch and lecture (\$20 per person for lunch).

#### **"Gewendete Leben" ("Redirected Lives")**

**Friday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.**

A reception and premier of the documentary "Gewendete Leben" ("Redirected Lives"), about the change of life in Germany since the fall of the wall in 1989, took place at Watkins College of Art and Design. The free event attracted approximately 50 guests.

**Dedication of the Magdeburg Greenway**

**Saturday, October 10, 12:00 noon**

Dedication of the Magdeburg Greenway portion of the Nashville Greenway and commemoration of 100th anniversary of Morgan Park took place in Morgan Park. The event, which was held in conjunction with Oktoberfest in Germantown, was sponsored by Sister Cities of Nashville and the Metro Department of Parks and Recreation along with the historic Germantown and Salemtown neighborhoods. Approximately 50 attended the dedication.

**"Magdeburg: Autumn 1989" Opening Reception**

**Sunday, October 11, 3:00- 5:00 p.m.**

Following the grand opening of the "Magdeburg: Autumn 1989" photo exhibit, which was attended by Magdeburg Vice-Mayor Rudeiger Koch, Mayor Karl Dean, Metro Council Members, and representatives from the German Consulate in Atlanta, Sister Cities of Nashville hosted a wine and cheese reception. This event, which took place in the courtyard at the Downtown Public Library, was attended by 80 members of Sister Cities of Nashville and special guests.

**"Magdeburg: Autumn 1989" Photo Exhibit**

**Monday, October 12 - Sunday, October 25**

A photo exhibit, "Magdeburg: Autumn 1989," depicting the peaceful demonstrations that led to the fall of the wall was presented in tandem with the Downtown Public Library's permanent display which showcases the Civil Rights movement in Tennessee. The free exhibit, which was open to the general public during the library's regular hours of operation, attracted several hundred during the two-week showcase.

**"Nonviolence and Peaceful Change: A Sister Cities Dialogue"**

**Thursday, October 22, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.**

"Nonviolence and Peaceful Change: A Sister Cities Dialogue" brought leaders of Civil Rights Movement in Nashville together with guests from Magdeburg's 1989 freedom demonstrations in a discussion of connections, comparisons, and common lessons of the two movements. The free event which took place at the Downtown Public Library attracted more than 200.

**"Puppet Theater Under Two Political Systems"**

**Sunday, October 11 – Wednesday, October 28**

An artistic exhibit developed by the Magdeburg Puppet Theater called "Puppet Theater Under Two Political Systems," depicting through pictures and photographs the different realities for performing artists under

different forms of government. The free exhibit at the Downtown Public Library attracted several hundred during the two weeks.

### **Nashville Institutions Involved in Magdeburg: Autumn 1989:**

Nashville Downtown Public Library; Watkins College of Art and Design; Lipscomb University; Tennessee State University

#### **D. MENDOZA, ARGENTINA**

- Initial attempts to begin an email pen pal program in 2009-2010 were postponed. Two Nashville schools have signed on to be pen pals with a Mendoza school for the 2010-2011 academic year.
- A student exchange was planned for June 2011, but due to late approvals by the school board in Mendoza, Sister Cities of Nashville did not have adequate time to promote it. We are beginning in Sept. 2010 to promote a summer 2011 exchange. We hope to receive students from Mendoza in May 2011.
- Two musicians were slated to travel from Mendoza to Nashville in May 2010 to perform with the Nashville Symphony on several occasions, as they had in the past. Unfortunately, their planned visit coincided with the Flood of 2010. Due to the flooding at the Nashville Symphony, the Symphony executives had to cancel their stay in Nashville and the concerts.
- A dinner featuring wines of Mendoza (one of the wine capitals of the world) took place in June 2010 at the Mad Platter. 65 were able to attend and learn about the wines of Mendoza from importer Vino del Sol.

#### **E. TAIYUAN, CHINA**

- In cooperation with the Nashville chapter of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association (USCPFA), SCN hosted a reception for the Tai Chi Master and Grand Master from Taiyuan, who were participants in the International Tai Chi Symposium held at Vanderbilt in July 2009. The sister city relationship between Taiyuan and Nashville was key to the decision to hold the Symposium in Nashville, Tennessee because Taiyuan produced one of the major styles of Tai Chi (Yang style). SCN also contributed financially to a Friendship Picnic for all participants, members of SCN and USCPFA-Nashville, and members and the general public. Approximately 400 attended the event. Taiyuan's mayor was invited to bring a delegation for the opening of the Symposium but was unable to do so.
- In November 2009, two members of SCN traveled to Taiyuan and the Shanxi province. There, they presented artwork created by Nashville students to Principal Suzhen Yang, when they visited the Affiliated High School of Shanxi University in Taiyuan, which has 3,500 students in middle and high school. SCN members met with administrators at the high school as well as with teachers and students. They planned an email, pen pal exchange to begin in fall 2010 with a Nashville school.
- In May 2010, three delegates from Taiyuan visited Nashville. Their visit followed the Flood of 2010 and therefore their original schedule was altered. The delegates met with members of the Nashville Chamber and Healthcare Council, the Nashville Public Library, and Cheekwood Botanical Gardens.

#### **F. CROUY, FRANCE**

- In February 2008, SCN established a friendship city relationship with Crouy, France, commemorating the heroic death of an American airman there in WWII, who was from Nashville. Throughout 2009-2010, one of SCN's board members spoke to high school students and other area groups, including the Daughters of the American Revolution.

- In August 2009, the city of Nashville joined our International Friendship City Crouy, France in a simultaneous ceremony commemorating the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of decorated WWII fighter pilot and Nashville native Captain Charles M. Peal. Nashville and Crouy are forever linked because of Captain Peal's bravery and sacrifice. At the same moment in time--9:00 a.m. in Nashville, 4:00 p.m. in Crouy--our two cities remembered and paid tribute to Captain Peal, as well as all the soldiers who have fought for our freedoms. Additionally, gratitude was shown to the citizens of Crouy for risking their safety to give our soldier a dignified funeral and for continuing to honor his memory for the sixty-five years since his death. Approximately 100 community members, including Mayor Karl Dean, State Sen. Henry, Councilman Duane Dominy and members of the French Consulate in Atlanta, attended the service which was held at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

#### G. DIYARBAKIR, TURKEY

- In May 2010, the foreign relations advisor for Diyarbakir Municipal Authority visited Nashville for the first time. Though just in town for one day, she did meet with SCN committee members, Charlie Williams in Economic Development, and with the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce. Her visit was just two weeks after the Flood of 2010 so her schedule with local officials was limited.

#### H. GWANGJIN-GU, SOUTH KOREA

- In January 2010, ten high school students from Korea and their chaperone traveled to Nashville. They stayed with local families for two weeks, attended school, visited local attractions and met with city officials. They attended a total of six different schools where they had the opportunity to interact with hundreds of other students.

- As part of a reciprocal exchange, eight Nashville students and a chaperone traveled to Gwangjin-gu in June 2010 for two weeks. They also stayed with local families, attended school, took Korean language lessons, visited area attractions, attended cultural performances, met local officials and visited the Demilitarized Zone.

- In March, 2010, fourteen Belmont University students under the guidance of the Director of the Center for International Business visited Gwangjin-gu and met with the mayor and other local officials.

#### I. KAMAKURA, JAPAN

- Sister Cities partnered with the Consulate General of Japan in Nashville and the Japan America Society in support of the Cherry Blossom Festival in downtown Nashville. For the first year, SCN co-hosted a 1 mile and 5K walk with JAST prior to the Festival. The goal was to bring awareness to the Festival (the culture and cuisine of Japan), the missions of our organizations, and the proposed sister city partnership between Nashville and a city in Japan. More than 150 attended the Walk which was led by SCN Board President David Briley, Mayor Karl Dean and Anne Davis and Consul General of Japan Hiroshi Sato, with hundreds more attending the Festival itself.

## J. PORT DE LA SELVA

- A musician from Nashville participated in a major festival in the spring 2010 in Port de la Selva, which is a Municipality United in Friendship with Nashville.