

In helping to make and keep friends abroad, Americans engaged in Sister City programs are not only gaining a sympathetic awareness of the problems of the other fellow, but from the frank discussions and exchange of experiences that typify the best affiliations, they are learning to see themselves as others see them. The work of the Sister City Committee focusing the efforts of local groups and citizens in all walks of life into a positive community objective provides the experience of working together for a common goal in many ways representative of man's noblest aspirations. A former mayor of San Jose, California, put it this way, "A great many things have happened in San Jose as a result of the affiliation which have contributed to what we might call an era of good feeling. Local citizens working together for the first time on a program for the good of the community and the nation found they could cooperate. When called together for other civic projects they knew each other personally and were off to a good start."



In a similar vein, the Portsmouth, Ohio committee reports, "We feel that this Sister City experience has done much for the Portsmouth area. We have had fun and met real challenges in language and customs, in building goodwill, understanding, friendship and cooperation with our neighbors South of the Border. We strongly recommend that other cities consider the many advantages of a Sister City relationship. It's a real community-wide opportunity and challenge."

We have seen the Sister City mechanism, where it ranges across the spectrum of the community, can obtain action on a wide variety of local issues in the public interest. A well-rounded Sister City committee is a truly representative group that should provide the most accurate cross section of a community. As such it can help channel community feelings into constructive action and respond quickly to local, national, and international challenges.

With the depth and the impact of Sister City programs now on the increase, this widening experience in local action for international goals can help to produce more internationally conscious and concerned citizens across the length and breadth of the country.