



W.K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION AWARDS YOUTH EXCHANGE GRANT FOR U.S./MEXICAN AFFILIATIONS

Sister Cities International will begin a new U.S.-Mexico youth exchange program, with partial support from a three-year grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The program was announced at SCI's recent conference in Albuquerque, N.M., attended by U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, John Negroponte, and Gustavo Petricoli, ambassador for Mexico to the United States. Both were enthusiastic about the new project, pledging their support to further sister cities youth exchanges between the two countries.

The new project will expand current and create new opportunities for youth exchanges between U.S. cities and their 157 sister cities in Mexico. It provides for program development and mini-grant assistance to U.S.-Mexican sister cities for unique youth exchange opportunities. Two categories of youth exchange projects can be developed; thematic exchanges and community work service project exchanges for youth between the ages of 15 and 25.

Both categories will include homestays, orientations, language study, and participation in community activities and sister cities committee activities. Both include the study of the countries (Mexico and the United States). Thematic exchanges will focus on a set of relevant issues or common focus such as the arts, journalism, environment, music, careers, agriculture, architecture, leadership, and others. Community work service project exchanges are experiential in nature and will encompass a set of relevant issues or common focus, such as camp counseling, historical preservation and restoration, public works, conservation and environment, volunteer community service and others.

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INTERNSHIP IS GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR NEW ZEALANDER

Stephen McGrath of Gisborne, New Zealand, joined the city staff of sister city Palm Desert, Calif., as a management intern for three months. During his internship, completed at the end of February, he worked in all departments to gain insight in U.S. municipal government operations. His contributions were "countless; the friendship and culture he shared were priceless," stated Sheila R. Gilligan, city clerk. McGrath is a student of Massey University in Palmerstown, New Zealand. The following is a reprint of the article he wrote for Palm Desert's newsletter, The Hauteline.

Traveling from the summer into winter, from sheep to dates, from South Pacific Ocean to the North American Desert provides a traveler with a great learning experience. I have been in the Coachella Valley since late November learning about the United States and working with the city of Palm Desert.

Gisborne, New Zealand, is the sister city of Palm Desert. Both are geographically different but socially

SCI BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE DEVELOPS NEW FUNDING STRATEGIES

SCI vice president and Building Fund Committee chairman, Raymond Schultz, and committee members, Ann Galloway, Launa Kowalski, Jane Tublin, Linda Whitton, and Wylie Williams, met with SCI staff members, Thomas Gittins, Tom Viall and Virginia Walden, Aug. 18 at the national office in Alexandria, Va., to discuss plans for developing future headquarters funding sources. Chip Whitton also attended to offer advice on Alexandria real estate.

The group explored several ideas to boost funding for building operational expenses. They decided on two fund-raising projects. Next year, the occasion of the 35th anniversary of Sister Cities International, would be the kickoff of a fund-raising campaign.

To acquire donated items for a silent auction (air fares, art objects, services, vacations, etc.) that will be held at the '91 annual SCI conference in Chicago, there will be several appeals made to the membership before the July 17 conference date. During the week of the conference, a booth operated by the Building Fund Committee will be open to display the auction items and to encourage participation. The winning bids will be announced during the conference.

A special funding appeal will be made in conjunction