



GETTING ORGANIZED

There is one moving spirit or a small group of kindred souls behind the launching of each town affiliation. You are reading this handbook - therefore, you must be one of them. These pages have distilled for you the experience of hundreds of communities and their citizens involved in international relations.

Outlined below are some practical steps that can be adapted to your own special situation to help your community enter into a Sister City relationship. These are not hard and fast rules, but a logical progression of involvement that has worked in the majority of cases.

While on the surface the idea of getting your city linked with a city in another country may seem monumental, it is not really all that difficult to get the ball rolling. First of all, you should discuss the idea with friends and people that you know who are members of various organizations in your community. You will probably find a great deal of enthusiasm and interest, and their support will be helpful to you when you approach your city government to obtain endorsement.

At this point you should arrange a meeting to present the idea to your mayor. Draw on the material from experiences of other cities and the national endorsement enjoyed by the program. Note the key role played by the mayor and city council in an affiliation. If you are acquainted with one or more of your city councilmen discuss the idea with them as this program is bi-partisan and apolitical.

Once you have official city backing of your initiative, the following sequences of action are recommended.

