# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Kathleen Borland wins Sister Cities International's

## **Volunteer of the Year Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – Kathleen Borland of Chicago Sister Cities International (CSCI) has won *Sister Cities International's* 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award. The Award honors an exemplary volunteer for contributions, leadership and talent that benefit local sister city programs and the larger sister city network.

Ms. Borland has been an active volunteer and champion of CSCI for 14 years. She was first introduced to CSCI in 1996, through an exchange organized by the National Association of Social Workers, Illinois Chapter in Chicago with sister city Hamburg, Germany. In 2004, she became the Chair for Social Service programs at CSCI. Her leadership has led to two successful social services initiatives with sister cities Paris, France and Osaka, Japan.

Ms. Borland has been a host as well as a member of several sister city delegations. She expertly utilizes various resources to maintain and expand exchanges, including volunteer committees, NGOs, universities, in-kind donations and political support. Through her leadership, hard work and passion, she has enabled cultures to come together and produce mutually beneficial relationships and outcomes.

In addition to being a CSCI volunteer leader, Ms. Borland works full-time as a mediator at the Chicago Circuit Court's Mediation Service where she was instrumental in creating and developing the Cook County Court System's Focus on Children Program. She hopes to spread the social service exchange model to other sister city organizations throughout the US.

The Sister Cities International Annual Awards are awarded in several categories. Award winners will be honored at a special luncheon ceremony on July 14 during the Sister Cities International 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Jacksonville, Florida.

## About Sister Cities International

Sister Cities International facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad. Sister Cities International represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

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