

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Fountain Hills Sister Cities Corporation wins *Sister Cities International's*
Best Overall Program Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – Fountain Hills Sister Cities Corporation has won *Sister Cities International's* 2011 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population under 25,000. The award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

Fountain Hills has three sister cities: Kasterlee, Belgium; Dierdorf, Germany; and Ataco, El Salvador. In addition to cultural exchanges with sister cities; Fountain Hills has also initiated humanitarian outreach efforts to Ataco.

In June 2011 after 10 months of planning, 44 students and 28 adult volunteers went on a mission to rebuild 19 homes destroyed by a tragic mudslide in Ataco. The idea of rebuilding homes and helping the affected was born at the Fountain Hills High School and actively involved eager students. The project was possible through the fundraising efforts of the High School, Fountain Hills Sister Cities Corporation and contribution by the city's Chamber of Commerce. The Governor of Arizona, Janice K. Brewer, in a letter, thanked the Sister Cities Program, Fountain Hills High School and members of the community for their service.

Fountain Hills Sister Cities continues to work with community members, the City of Fountain Hills, the Town Council, local businesses, the Chamber of the Commerce, the Fountain Hills Times Newspaper and other civic organizations. It aims to increase memberships and strengthen current programs.

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* 56th 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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