

GREATER FORT LAUDERDALE SISTER CITIES

2011 PROGRAM NARRATIVE STATEMENT

1) OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS 2011

The Goals of the 2011 Board of Directors theme was to build close relationships with many of the Consul Offices through events which brought the community together for Anniversary Celebrations and Signing Ceremony honoring Fort Lauderdale's first sister city with Germany.

The invitation from Mayor Jack Seiler to all mayors and consul offices to join Fort Lauderdale, Florida to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the city was the thread which tied many of the 2011 events together.

The events hosted by consul offices honoring the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy, the 100th Anniversary of Taiwan, 63rd Anniversary for Israel, Proclamations Honoring Medellin Colombia and 50th Anniversary of Fort Lauderdale's First Sister City, German American Day celebrated in Duisburg Germany turned 2011 into a year of many commemorative celebrations. GFLSCI presented to the community at the 100th Anniversary Celebration The International Pavilion where all 17 cities were represented with exhibit booths showcasing the beauty and culture of the 17 cities. Entertainment throughout the day gave the community the opportunity to enjoy a tour around the world in their own city. All reviews announced the International Pavilion hosted by GFLSCI was the highlight of the Festival.

2) DESCRIPTION OF HOW OUR OVERALL PROGRAM ACHIEVED ITS GOALS:

The Goals of GFLSCI are achieved through the collaboration of 35 board members reaching into the community to invite sponsors, community businesses, local government agencies and

members to help with numerous initiatives and organize programs which bring value to our community and our sister cities communities.

Cap Haitien, Haiti

Following a visit from the Mayor of Cap Haitien, Haiti the City of Fort Lauderdale Chief of Police and Fire Departments gathered donations from their respective departments and prepared a shipment for Cap Haitien which included **fire** fighter 'bunker gear' and police equipment to be shipped to our sister city, Cap Haitien, Haiti. The shipment was sent to our sister cities committee in Cap Haitien and presented the donations to the Mayor of Cap Haitien and police and fire departments. The equipment has been donated by the City of Fort Lauderdale and its Police and Fire Departments. Special thanks to Gabriel Zahora for his collaboration and to the Police and Fire Departments.

Duisburg, Germany

Fort Lauderdale's first sister city with Germany was highlighted by a visit of delegation of 12 people from Duisburg including Mayor Sauerland and many members of his cabinet. The event brought out many supporters including the Consul General of Miami, representatives from two German Airlines, German American Chamber of Commerce, Mayor of Fort Lauderdale and City Commissioners, Universities and Economic Development offices of Fort Lauderdale. The Official Signing continued in October when the Official Documents were signed in Duisburg Germany at the Celebration of German American Day on October 6, 2011. All sister city relationships must be followed up with continued events and programs and this was a specific requirement we fulfilled with Duisburg planning a Student Exchange within the first year.

Agogo, Ghana

The TeleMed Project was developed in collaboration with our medical, technology and humanitarian committee to offer medical assistance to remote rural areas in Agogo, Ghana. This is ongoing as the community partners are organized in Ghana and the legal ramifications are resolved. Sustainable Development continues to be the focus of the Environment Committee and 2011 was a year of great progress in Agogo. The full report cannot be completed until the Committee returns from their projects where they have been for the last 6 weeks and return the end of March. HONEY Project is ongoing and a full report has been submitted in the Innovation Youth Application.

Gold Coast Australia

The 31 year relationship with Gold Coast Australia continues to be an example for all sister cities. Close ties in many areas uniting cities offer so many opportunities to learn from the exchanges established with the universities. This collaboration has taken on new force, as two institutions from opposite sides of the globe joined together to host Subtropical Cities 2011 - Subtropical Urbanism: Beyond Climate Change. The collaboration between Florida Atlantic University and the Queensland University of Technology to host this conference, for the first time in the United States, will forge new directions in international cooperative research to address urban design solutions that support sustainable behavior, GHG reduction, and climate change research in the areas of design, planning, and public policy. With southeast Queensland and southern Florida as contributors to this global effort among subtropical urban regions that share similar challenges, opportunities, and vulnerabilities our aim is to advance the development and application of local knowledge to the global problems we share. The Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show each year is fortunate to have the sponsorship of one of Gold Coast Australia's largest marine businesses and brings both cities closer together through the marine industries which both cities are dependent for their economic stability.

Mar Del Plata, Argentina

Ocean Rescue collaborations are a key focus for the Fort Lauderdale area with miles of beaches and canals and through the leadership of the Mar Del Plata Committee these events are organized annually and bring together cities from around the globe to participate in training in Fort Lauderdale and exchanges between life guards and ocean rescue professionals annually.

Medellin Colombia

Fort Lauderdale, July 16, 2011 - 50 years later Fort Lauderdale and Medellin reaffirm their Sisterhood with a series of trade, cultural and tourism events. July marked the signing of the agreement to reaffirm the twinning of the cities of Fort Lauderdale and Medellin. This celebration united both cities and opened the doors for so many opportunities. The Medellin leadership including the Mayor and President of City Commissioner with many other government officials visited Fort Lauderdale. A highlight of this celebration was the presentation to the Broward County Library of over 500 newly published books printed in Medellin showing how the city has been transformed through the City Officials committing to improve their library system. The youth of Medellin have many libraries to visit and through this program young people have other options to street violence.

La Romana, Dominican Republic

The Earthquake in 2010 that devastated Haiti united the countries of Haiti and Dominican Republic. As neighbors many families who were able to leave Haiti went to the Dominican Republic and the city of La Romana through the efforts of the GFLSCI Committee Chair helped to coordinate relief efforts to the Haitian Committee in Dominican Republic. Every year in the month of August, Haitian Christians have a one weeklong praise and worship, preaching services at La Romana Stadium, City of La Romana, Dominican Republic. Last year about 7,000 people

over 500 came from USA and Canada, some traveled from our areas of Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Palm Beach and others traveled from New York and Boston to reach out to the local Haitians in the D.R. During the month of August they are will travel back to La Romana. In Delray Beach, Florida Haitian Bethel Baptist Church, just one congregation will travel to La Romana with 30 people from their church, They will have with them a medical team to help some of the Haitian immigrants along with Rev. Jules who was a seminary student in Fort Lauderdale and now the Pastor of the church in Delray. All these people travel to La Romana will also help the local business.

Quepos, Costa Rica

Summary:

The plan is to develop within the Hogar Crea facility in Quepos a space for the installation of laundry equipment. SCI Quepos will ensure the management and operation of the center's director in the operation of the administration of the laundry equipment.

General Objective:

To generate financial resources so that Hogar Crea can fulfill its mission to provide preventive care and treatment to people of all ages and both sexes suffer from drug addiction and homelessness.

Investment Plan:

The investment cost of equipment for the laundry (one washer and one dryer of industrial quality) was \$ \$11,911.53. Funds donated \$ 3,000.00 for Fort Lauderdale SCI will be used for the first installment of equipment, the remaining \$ 8,911.53 will be paid through monthly installments of \$1,000.

Income Projection:

This is projected monthly income to produce laundry Hogar Crea Quepos for about \$ 2,906.25

Management of Project:

Project will be overseen by the Quepos Committee Chair following the models of the Cap Haitien Sister Cities Committee Structure.

Kaohsiung City, Taiwan

The relationship with Kaohsiung City was strengthened by the committee chair visiting the newly elected mayor and showing the interests of GFLSCI to continue the student exchange that had been so successful and to support continued opportunities between cities. The celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Fort Lauderdale and Taiwan allowed the community to attend several events hosted by the Taiwan Cultural Office. The dedication and commitment of the youth of Taiwan are an example for the youth of our communities.

Rimini and Venice Italy

The exciting Police Exchange that began in 2010 between Rimini and Fort Lauderdale when the Rimini Police visited Fort Lauderdale for training and education was completed in 2011 when the city of Fort Lauderdale Police visited Rimini.

Many fundraising events were held to raise funds for the police exchange and the community was united for celebrations and the highlighted Notte Veneziana Gala also celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Fort Lauderdale and 150th Anniversary of Unification of Italy.

An opportunity for GFLSCI to participate in the Venice Student Exchange Program hosted by Florida Atlantic University was presented by Committee Chair and organized in collaboration with Venice Committee Chair to introduce the students city government in Venice.

3) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SISTER CITY ORGANIZATION

Greater Fort Lauderdale Sister Cities is led by a board of directors and an executive committee, one part time staff person, 17 sister cities and 13 supporting committees. All funds for the programs are raised by the committees with a small annual stipend, which must be voted annually by Fort Lauderdale City Commissioners. GFLSCI fosters their relationship with their community partners, including the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, One Village Planet, Nova Southeastern University, The Economic Development Department of the City of Fort Lauderdale, The Broward Alliance, Port Everglades and The Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival which has contributed to the success of our programs in the community.

4) DESCRIPTION OF HOW SPECIFIC PROGRAMS & ACTIVIES WERE CHOSEN AND IMPLEMENTED

GFLSCI adopts a “Sister of the Year” from its 17 sister cities affiliation to focus its programs and activities throughout the year. Cap Haitien, Haiti, Agogo Ghana, La Romana, Dominican Republic and Quepos, Costa Rica were the focus of the GFLSCI 2011 Board of Directors. The Agogo Ghana Project HONEY Projcet (How Our Nations Empower Youth) the Community Gardens Program, Cap Haitien, Haiti and surrounding communities educate women on how women sustain themselves through gardening initiatives, Drug Rehabilitation Programs in Quepos, Costa Rica and school and educational programs for La Romana Dominican Republic.

5) DESCRIPTION OF THE BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE SISTER CITY PROGRAM

The benefits derived from these programs have been wide spread since the community participated in so many of the programs. The pride of the sponsors, community and elected officials and their city staff has brought more members and volunteers to support all the programs in GFLSCI.

6) WHY WE DESERVE THE AWARD

GFLSCI deserves the award because of the commitment of 35volunteers on the board of directors along with their co-chairs and committees working together on the many ongoing programs representing all sectors of our society. The support of local officials and sharing with our community our programs with our 17 sister cities worldwide truly meets the mission of the sister city foundation to promote citizen diplomacy around the world.