
**RICHMOND SISTER CITIES COMMISSION WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S
INNOVATION AWARD (HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE)**

WASHINGTON, DC – Richmond Sister Cities Commission has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Innovation Award (Humanitarian Assistance) for a city with a population between 100,001 and 500,000. The 2014 Sister Cities International Innovation Award (Humanitarian Assistance) recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual sister city programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.

In 2013, the Richmond Sister Cities Commission (RSCC) and its community partners hosted the Women, War, and Peace in Africa Conference at Virginia Commonwealth University. The conference helped to publicize the partnership between Richmond and its sister city Ségou and how RSCC is working to highlight Virginia's links to West Africa by nurturing collaboration between schools, universities, organizations, and community groups working in the field of human development.

New initiatives featuring activities by RSCC and its community partners working with Project C.U.R.E. to bring medical supplies and clinical trials on HIV-positive women in their sister city of Ségou, Mali were highlighted during the event. As a result, it is expected that at least one and perhaps two containers of medical supplies will be shipped to Ségou in 2014, valued at approximately \$450,000 each.

To successfully implement this conference, RSCC's working group members collaborated with Virginia Commonwealth University, the Richmond Peace Education Center, Virginia Friends of Mali, and many hardworking volunteers and affiliate NGOs.

Sister Cities International's Annual Awards are awarded in several categories including Best Overall, Innovation (Arts & Culture, Economic Development, Energy/Sustainable Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and Youth & Education), Volunteer of the Year, and Youth Leadership. Award winners will be honored at a special ceremony on Saturday, August 2, during Sister Cities International's 58th Annual Conference in San Jose, California.

The Sister Cities International 58th Annual Conference will bring together elected and municipal officials, engaged citizens, diplomats, and business leaders in the exciting capital of Silicon Valley to discuss, "The Power of Digital Diplomacy". Conference sessions will provide attendees with opportunities to learn about strengthening their sister city programs through informative sessions led by experts and industry leaders. For more information on the 2014 Sister Cities International Annual Conference, please visit: www.SisterCitiesConference.org.

#

About Sister Cities International

Founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956, Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organization for over 500 individual sister cities, counties, and states across the United States with relationships in 2,000 communities in 140 countries. This sister city network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programs and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

Facebook: [Sister Cities International](https://www.facebook.com/SisterCitiesInternational); Twitter: [@SisterCitiesInt](https://twitter.com/SisterCitiesInt); Website: www.sister-cities.org