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**SANTA BARBARA/PUERTO VALLARTA SISTER CITY COMMITTEE WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S  
BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC – Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 50,001 and 100,000. The 2014 Sister Cities International Best Overall Program Award recognizes sister city programs that demonstrated outstanding accomplishments in 2013 in advancing the goals and mission of the sister cities movement.

In 2013, Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister City Committee (SBPVSC ) aimed at accomplishing several milestones including interacting and creating partnership alliances with Rotary, Federation of Jalisco Clubs, and other organizations that share similar missions. A major achievement in 2013 for SBPVSC was the building of a much needed health clinic in a remote area of sister city Puerto Vallarta.

Additionally, SBPVSC members also attended and participated in sister city conferences and social and cultural events in both US and Mexico. SBPVSC even celebrated their 40-year anniversary in 2013 and held various community events and inviting elected officials and citizens.

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 58<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.SisterCitiesConference.org).

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**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.

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