

**REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY OF OWENSBORO COMMISSION  
TO THE JUDGE EXECUTIVE AND DAVIESS COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
TO THE JUDGE EXECUTIVE AND OHIO COUNTY FISCAL COURT  
TO THE CHAIR AND GRADD BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AND  
OWENSBORO SISTER CITIES / REGIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Calendar Year Activities 2006**

**FOUNDING STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Owensboro Sister Cities, Inc. encourages global understanding between our community and other world communities. The Owensboro Sister Cities Program will assist government entities with the proper reception of foreign visitors and dignitaries by serving as the community's Office of Protocol; pursue an ongoing mission to inform and educate our community concerning our area's international cultural and business ties and their effects on our community; initiate exchange programs in education, business, professional groups, and the arts; assist government and its agencies in promoting our community's cultural heritage through our Sister City(ies) relationship; encourage development and expansion of international trade relationships and assist with foreign trade missions; assist community organizations in direct relationships with similar organizations in our Sister City(ies) and elsewhere in the world, where possible.

## Introduction

**During 2006, the Owensboro Sister Cities program has been expanded to cover regional counties. A program name change has been instituted to read “Owensboro Sister Cities / Regions”, a further explanation of the scope of each of the three current or agreed upon expanded relationships is addressed in this report.**

**We had a total of ten exchange visit subject components and one planning visit encompassing the involvement of seventy - seven people.** Of these, 28 persons were incoming visitors to Owensboro and 49 were outgoing visitors to the Czech Republic and Japan. This year marks the beginning of two new initiatives to found a Sister City / Region relationship between Nisshin City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan with the City of Owensboro, Daviess County and Ohio County, a further Sister Region relationship has been agreed to, between the Green River Area Development District (encompassing a 5 county region in western Kentucky) and the Olomouc Kraj ( a 13 county regional government in Moravia, Czech Republic).

There is every reason to believe these exchanges will continue to grow in number and participants and promote both the understanding of our citizens and their well being by promoting greater knowledge of our city and region. We will need increased financial, logistical and manpower help if the program is to grow further.

**Indeed, as Executive Director, I believe the timing is right for a community effort to found an “Owensboro Regional International Center”. This Center could serve the needs of government, secondary and higher education and the Chamber of Commerce efforts to project an international presence for Owensboro and the greater region and serve to orient new incoming foreign national residents.**

Please take the time to review the report and reflect on our ability to project the City of Owensboro and our region positively in the international community. We believe that we have the most active of the fourteen U.S. - Czech Sister City relationships and that the breadth of our program reflects well on the Owensboro region with any new additional international contacts the city and region makes. Our program has come to the positive attention of the past Presidents of the Czech Republic and the United States (President Havel & President Clinton), as well as, the past U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic (Hon. William Cabaniss).

The Owensboro Sister Cities / Regions program touches the lives of several hundred people involved in our exchange activities on both sides of the Atlantic and, with our new efforts, also across the Pacific. The program does an exceptional job of carrying out its charged mission. While in the past, this program has been solely dependent on support from the City of Owensboro as an official international link with the Sister City of Olomouc, the overwhelming financial support for the program comes from individuals and donations from those businesses and institutions participating in the programs. We can demonstrate at least \$20.00 of community support for each past city budget dollar allocated.

A note of explanation is called for here. The only Japanese government entity being treated with in Japan is Nisshin-shi (the City of Nisshin), Aichi - ken. On the American side, we are approaching this relationship as a Sister Region involving the governments of the City of Owensboro, Daviess County and Ohio County. The reasoning is both to recognize that two of our Japanese industry regional partners are outside of Daviess County and to recognize the wisdom in being more inclusive in service to and participation of the citizens of the greater region affected by these international companies and global relationships.

With the institution of our two new official relationships, the necessary financial support has taken on a more involved picture. The local Japanese owned company, Toyotetsu has been a major supporter of our Japan initiative from its inception. The Japanese owned company, Daicel, located at Bluegrass Crossings Industrial Park in Ohio County, in cooperation with the Daviess and Ohio County Fiscal Courts have transferred funds to help support the Sister Region relationship with the City of Nisshin. The City of Owensboro, while certainly sharing the financial burden of hosting official delegations of the government of Nisshin, has not currently allocated any sustaining additional funds for the Japanese relationship.

Funding for the new relationship with the Olomouc Kraj is to be primarily maintained by the Green River Area Development District. Thus far there has not been any funding allocated to support this relationship.

A further development in 2006 is a potential relationship with a city in India, initial discussion has taken place, informally, with members of our resident Indian population, the majority of whom come from Gujarat Province in western India. Both the Peoples Republic of China and India are involved in substantial Asian economic growth. The benefit in dealing with India is that it is both the largest democracy in the world and the world's largest English speaking nation. Due to its history, its societal institutions are somewhat more familiar to us, being underwritten by British law. We can expect that the Indian population will help support this initiative if we chose to pursue a relationship.

We are very appreciative of the City of Owensboro, Daviess County and Ohio County Fiscal Courts, our Japanese owned industries of Toyotetsu, Daicel and Ratatsu, and Owensboro Community and Technical College for their major support efforts. The program represents a wonderful community partnership combining the efforts of many community institutions, businesses and individuals. There can be little doubt for the need to educate our Kentucky citizens concerning our place in the global community. Whether for citizenship, student growth or workforce development, there is an ever greater demand for providing an international education component for the regional community we serve.

Our thanks also goes to our area colleges: Kentucky Wesleyan for scholarship support allowing Marketa Mylkova to have completed her studies in Owensboro, Brescia University and Western Kentucky University in Owensboro for encouraging student and (WKU) main campus Summer Study Program participation, and Owensboro Community and Technical College for granting reassigned Faculty time, which allows direction of this Community Partnership program. We also thank the families who opened their homes, to the hotels for assistance in housing, and to the three area school systems for support of our exchanges of students and teachers. There are just too many people and entities to mention but the program draws on that which our community is known, a shared caring to make visitors feel welcomed.

**As representatives of the citizens of Owensboro, we request your continued encouragement and active continued financial support for Owensboro Sister Cities/ Regions and our international efforts.**

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## **Year 2006 Exchanges and Activities**

### **Post Secondary Exchange Student – Academic Year 2005 - 2006**

**Marketa Mylkova** completed her college study at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro during the spring of 2006 with a degree focusing, in part, on international relations. KWC has made this possible through scholarship funding. Owensboro Sister Cities continued to support Marketa annually with the cost of her college textbooks. Marketa was selected as a member of the Order of Oak & Ivy while at Wesleyan. She has been a wonderful representative of her family, our Sister City (where she attended Gymnazium) and of the Czech Republic. In the spring, Marketa was married and has since moved to Louisville where her husband is completing his studies.

### **Government Exchange from the Olomouc Kraj, April 1 – 8, 2006**

The City of Owensboro, Daviess County and Ohio County hosted 10 persons representing the government and economic interests of the Olomouc Kraj (regional government covering 13 counties in the Czech Republic). In addition, we were honored by having the Embassy of the Czech Republic send its Commercial Attaché to be part of the delegation to learn about Owensboro.

Representing the government were: Mr. Pavel Horák, 1st vice-governor (unfortunately, Mr. Horak was unable to come due to a flooding emergency at home). Mr. Horák had previously visited Owensboro as a member of the Olomouc City Council. Mr. Petr Polášek, member of the Regional Council of the Olomouc Region. Mr. Libor Kolář, CEO, Olomouc Regional Administration and Mr. Jan Dostál, Chairman of the Committee for Town Planning and a member of the elected Assembly of the City of Olomouc.

Representing economic development and education were: Mr. Borivoj Minar, Vice-chairman of the Regional Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Michaela Pruknerová, Head of the Strategic Development Department of the Olomouc Region. Mgr. Jakub Dürr, Vice Rector for International Cooperation, Palacky University. Ms. Zuzana Hrubošová, Director, Miloslava Stibor School of Visual Art

Representing international relations, organization, interpreting were:

Ms. Jitka Brabčova, Head of the Kraj International Relations Section  
Ms Michaela Klímová, Kraj International Relations Section

Our special guest was: Mr. Viktor Danielis, Commercial Attaché, Embassy of the Czech Republic, Washington, D.C.

### **Young Artist Program, November – April 2006**

The Owensboro Sister Cities Young Artist Program is coordinated by Ms. Rhonda McEnroe, a well-known local artist. The competitive program is open to all youth, ages 13 – 18. Ms. McEnroe visits the local secondary schools encouraging art teachers to have their students participate in the program. Local Sister Cities winning compositions are entered in international competition with winners announced from ten international Sister Cities. The Mayor of Owensboro and Olomouc Kraj delegation were present to make the local awards for this year's awards at Gallery 412 on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

In addition to our local prize funds, our winning entrant is eligible to win an additional \$300.00 prize if they are one of the ten Sister Cities International award winners. The program both supports youth artists and is a terrific opportunity to draw attention to our city internationally as winning cities are listed in SCI materials distributed worldwide. The British / Dutch owned company, Unilever is an annual local sponsor of this community youth oriented program.

### **Exploratory Exchange to Nisshin-shi, May 5 – 13, 2006**

The main purpose of this exchange was to ascertain what common interests, institutions, and economic cooperation potential exists to support a mutually beneficial long - term relationship with the City of Nisshin, Aichi Prefecture, Japan.

Dr. Nick Brake, representing Economic Development interests and Prof. William R. West, representing Owensboro Sister Cities / Regions and education interests were dispatched to Nisshin for this initial exchange visit. Planning included a schedule of meetings with local government and interested parties to discover common interests in establishing exchanges between the two cities and regions. The Report of findings is included at the end of the 2006 annual report.

### **Annual Summer Study Program, May 25 – June 27, 2006**

This private/public higher education partnership is aimed at providing a safe and economical summer overseas study opportunity for our regional community's students. Credit courses and instruction was supplied through Owensboro Community and Technical College as the low cost provider of instruction. During the summer 2006 session there were twenty-three students participating.

Instructors were: Dr. Cynthia Houston and Dr. Roger Murphy of Western Kentucky University. The program instructors are employed by Owensboro Community and Technical College as Adjunct Faculty members for the summer session.

In addition to their study of Anthropology, History or Political Science, the students were able to travel to Vienna, Austria; Budapest, Hungary; Krakow , Poland; Bratislava, Slovakia and Prague, Czech Republic. The summer program works closely with our Olomouc Sister City connections to provide our students with the exceptional opportunity to learn cross culturally about other global communities.

2006 Summer Study Participants were:

Avery, Rollie J.	Owensboro Community and Technical College
Belak, Elissa W.	Western Kentucky University
Carinena, Ana R.	Western Kentucky University
Clifton, Jeff J.	Western Kentucky University
Collins, Sarah K.	Western Kentucky University
Hager, Lena A.	Western Kentucky University
Hillard, Emily K.	Western Kentucky University
Houston, Ruth A.	Western Kentucky University
Jolly, Carrie L	Western Kentucky University
Jones, Tyler J.	Western Kentucky University
Lawrence Sarah A.	Western Kentucky University
Lilly, Lindsey M.	Western Kentucky University
Meredith, Laura E.	Western Kentucky University
Moghaddam, Susan L.	Western Kentucky University
Orosz, Alisha L	Western Kentucky University
Petrzilka, Lauren	Western Kentucky University
Quinn, Alisha	Owensboro Community and Technical College
Roberts, William R.	Western Kentucky University
Salsman, Andrew	Western Kentucky University
Stroud, Catie L.	Western Kentucky University
Tolbert, Matthew K.	Western Kentucky University
Trundle, Sara C.	Western Kentucky University
Tucker, Landy	Western Kentucky University

In cooperation with Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Owensboro Sister Cities / Regions assisted in making possible an extension program taking students to the Baltic States. Building on our Summer Study Program the extension travel logistics and financial records are assisted through us. Academic arrangements are arranged though WKU.

2006 Owensboro Sister Cities / WKU Extension Group:

Adkins, Erica Lea  
Aune, Garrett  
Bradley, Maxwell  
Hager, Lena A.  
Hennessey, Kathleen  
Jones, Tyler J.  
LeTourneau, James  
Lilly, Lindsey M.  
McKinley, Elizabeth-Ann  
Minton, Justin  
Orosz, Alisha L  
Ratliff, Kara  
Salsman, Andrew  
Schwank, Ryan  
Trundle, Sara C.  
Tucker, Serenda  
Wilburn, Alayna

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## **Cooperative Exchange involving Hopkinsville Community College, May 25 – June 4**

In an effort to share our successful experience at maintaining an annual Summer Study Program and wishing to encourage other KCTCS institutions to work cooperatively in community based partnerships promoting global awareness, we made arrangements for two HCC faculty members to accompany our program and observe the functioning of our program. The faculty members from Hopkinsville Community College were: Mr. Ing J. Chang and Ms. Amanda Sauerman.

## **Sister Cities / Rotary Club / Lion's Club, May 25 - June 5, 2006**

Owensboro Sister Cities / Regions President Pamela Wilson led a small delegation of visitors making contact and holding discussions for future cooperation between the Rotary Clubs and the Lion's Clubs in the Sister Cities of Owensboro and Olomouc. While greetings were sent to the Owensboro clubs, no definite plans were made for exchanges.

Representing the Owensboro Rotary Club was Owensboro Sister Cities Board Member, Mr. Larry Mayfield. Representing the Owensboro Lion's Club interests was Dr. Drew Ward who was accompanied by his wife, Owensboro Sister Cities Board Member, Jeannette Ward. Also as part of the delegation was Owensboro Sister Cities Executive Director, William R. West.

Members of the delegation also met with representatives of Palacky University while in Olomouc to explore potential exchange cooperation concerning education interests. Planning meetings were held with the Bluegrass Band, Hermanek who were to participate in the 2006 ROMP.

## **Hermanek, ROMP, June 2007**

The Bluegrass / Country band Hermanek was extended an invitation to come to Owensboro and participate in our Bluegrass music "ROMP". While ROMP has had at least three Czech Bluegrass bands participate over past years, Hermanek last visited in 1995.

The band members were home hosted during their stay by Dr. and Mrs. Terry & Edie Tyler. Owensboro Sister Cities Board Members, most notably, Pam Wilson, Carrie Blackham and Larry Mayfield pitched in to guarantee success of this music exchange. A highlight of the visit was the band's playing at Yellow Creek Park where they were joined on stage by Daviess County Judge Executive, Reid Haire singing select songs in Czech! Judge Haire had met the band members in the Czech Republic the previous summer in the Czech village of Veska.

## **Sister Cities / European Scout Exchange, June 15 – July 15, 2006**

Owensboro Sister Cities and the Shawnee Trails Council, BSA, serving the youth of 35 counties in Western Kentucky, provided an International Scouting Youth Exchange in cooperation with the Scouts of the Czech Republic. The exchange took place June 15th – July 15th, 2006.

Ten male and female Scout youth and four adult leaders participated in the 2006 exchange. One week was spent at Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland, the contingent then spent a week at Rieneck Scout Castle, Germany where they were met by some of their Czech Scout partners. The final two weeks of the exchange were spent in the Czech Republic hosted by the Czech Scouts of the Olomouc region. Continued.....

This was a fourth youth exchange involving Scouts. The first exchange took place with Czech Republic Scouts coming to Owensboro during the summer of 2000. In 2002, a contingent of American Scouts traveled to Kandersteg International Scout Centre in Switzerland and then on to the Czech Republic to be hosted by the Czech Scouts. In 2004 an historic exchange involved four area Scout Councils in Kentucky and Indiana hosting Czech Sister City Scouts.

Mr. Jan Pecinka who is a Czech national police detective in his employment in our Sister City is our Czech Scout leader partner. As a result of his sustained cooperation and promotion of our relationship, Mr. Pecinka has been made a "Kentucky Colonel" this year by Governor Fletcher.

### **Multicultural Festival, August 19, 2006**

Owensboro Sister Cities participated, once again, in the community-wide Multicultural Festival held on the grounds of First Presbyterian Church on Griffith Avenue. Our display naturally supplies information about the Czech Republic and Czech culture. In addition to Owensboro Sister Cities / Regions Board Members, we were assisted by Mr. Peter Kobella and his wife. Peter is a new Faculty member at OCTC and is originally from Slovakia.

This year we also cooperated with the Botanical Garden in promoting our new Japanese connection and had a separate table promoting the Japanese culture and our newly developing relationship.

### **Exploratory Exchange from Nisshin – shi, August 13 – 19, 2006**

In response to both the favorable findings of Dr. Brake and Prof. West from their exploratory exchange visit to Nisshin and the favorable reception of the government of Nisshin-shi, a reciprocal exchange visit was arranged. The purpose of this exchange was to allow representatives from Nisshin to learn, first hand about our city and region.

The representatives sent by the City of Nisshin were: Prof. Hiroshi Fujimoto who is President of Nisshin International Association□, a Professor of American Foreign Relations□ and Chair, Graduate School of International Area Studies at Nanzan University□.□□ Mr. Tsukane Ishihara, General Manager of Public Environmental Department in Nisshin City Hall□□ and Mr. Masahiro Sakurai, who is Subsection Chief of Public Relationship Section,□ □ Nisshin City Hall□.

### **City of Nisshin Official Mayoral Exchange, Oct. 8 – 15, 2006**

With the positive findings of both exploratory exchanges, Mayor Akira Sago of the City of Nisshin requested the opportunity to visit Owensboro and our region to determine if he would lead his city into its first international relationship, which in addition, would mark the 100 year anniversary of Nisshin.

Accompanying Mayor Sago were: Mr. Osanami Suzumura, the past Chairperson of the Nisshin City Assembly; from the Public Environmental Department, Mr. Tsukane Ishihara, General Manager, Mr. Mitsutoshi Umemura, Chief of Public Relationship Division, and Ms. Makiko Kobayashi, Coordinator of Public Relationship Division. Representing the education interests was Dr. Hidesaburo Kusama, Professor from Aichi Gakuin University. Continued...

We could not have had a successful exchange without the assistance of translators Ms. Yuko Lang and Ms. Toshiko Macmillin who came from the Cincinnati area. We were also assisted by our Brescia student, Ms. Akane Shiwa who is studying business management at Brescia.

### **Elementary School Exchange, 2006 – 2007 Academic Year**

As a result of the exploratory exchange visits and Mayor Sago's visit, cooperation between the Nisshin Elementary School and Country Heights Elementary School has been initiated. Ms. Stacy Harper at Country Heights is the lead teacher for this effort in our community. She has begun to incorporate lessons about Japan into her curriculum. She is being assisted by Ms. Akane Shiwa, a student from Tokyo currently attending Brescia University. Akane has been able to contact Japanese families living in Owensboro to help with this cooperative program.

Nisshin Elementary School has approached their families to gather information and is preparing to invite the Country Heights student's families to exchange letters and small articles to help all the students learn more about each other's life and culture.

### **Kentucky Sister Cities Statewide Meeting October 10, 2006**

This annual meeting was held in Louisville and hosted by Louisville Sister Cities (Louisville maintains a relationship with seven Sister Cities). We had the opportunity to give a brief review of the Owensboro Sister Cities activities highlighting our Summer Study Program. Attending were representatives from several Kentucky cities either having current programs or those wishing to begin new relationships.

### **Kentucky League of Cities Meeting October 7, 2004**

The Kentucky League of Cities again promoted having Kentucky cities become members of Sister Cities International and begin community relationships with other countries. The Owensboro Sister Cities Executive Director along with the Kentucky Sister Cities State Coordinator presented the concept and acted as a resource to get any interested cities started in the program. The exhibition booth set up at the conference promoted the Owensboro – Olomouc Sister City Program.

### **Wheelchairs for Peace**

Owensboro Sister Cities President, Pam Wilson, has directing this project, which was presented to the Owensboro Sister Cities Board of Directors in November 2003. She has been in contact to make arrangements with a representative of the Olomouc Rotary Club and Mr. Jerry Gary of the Wheelchair Foundation to help coordinate our efforts. Owensboro Sister Cities has raised \$2575.00 toward this goal. We had hoped to raise \$18,000.00 in order to fill a complete shipping container for Olomouc where this need has been validated. The funds have been transferred to the Wheelchair Foundation in cooperation with the Olomouc Rotary Club.

**Olomouc Planning Exchange, Dec. 8 – 21, 2006**

It has become habit for the Executive Director to travel to our Czech Sister City at this time of year both to make necessary advanced deposits for our Summer Study Program and to meet with those planning or desiring future Sister cities / Regions exchanges. Several meetings were held which resulted in potential planning for the 2007 exchanges. The exchange potentials are as listed below.

**Planning for 2007:**

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At present we have the following events and exchanges tentatively planned for 2007.

2007 Exchanges

Nisshin Elementary School – Country Heights Elementary School (currently continues)  
Cardiac Surgeon, April 14 – May 13, 2007  
Official Nisshin-shi – Owensboro Region Signing, March 30 – April 7, 2007  
Summer Study Program, May 21 – June 20, 2007  
Official Olomouc Kraj – GRADD Signing Exchange, June 2007  
Official Mayoral Delegation Exchange from Olomouc, Fall 2007  
Higher Education Exchanges, Nisshin & Palacky University (to be determined)  
KWC / Symphony Exchange to Olomouc (to be determined)  
Olomouc Secondary School Exchange (to be determined)

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