CELEBRATING OUR SISTER CITIES

The City of Lawrence’s Sister Cities program has been promoting global citizenship in the lives of Lawrence residents for three decades. In 2019, we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of our partnership with Eutin, Germany, and in 2020 we will celebrate 30 years of partnership with Hiratsuka, Japan.

The Sister Cities international network is a worldwide program. Sister city, county, and state affiliations between the United States and similar jurisdictions around the world began shortly after World War II. Today, the Sister Cities network includes more than 2,300 communities in 135 countries.

Lawrence is home to three Sister Cities relationships, both Eutin and Hiratsuka, as well as Iniades, Greece. The relationship with Iniades began in 2009.

The sister cities relationships promote a wide range of cultural, educational, municipal, business and professional interests. The nature of these programs varies widely from city to city and they are based upon a formal agreement of general purpose and support made between the elected leaders of the two cities.

“Fostering these relationships between residents of Lawrence and our global partners is of great benefit to our community,” said Mayor Lisa Larsen. “Through exchanges and mutual support, we’re fostering a global environment that helps everyone involved grow into better citizens of the world.”

The Sister Cities board also works with “Friend” groups (Friends of Eutin, Friends of Hiratsuka and Friends of Iniades), who are more directly involved in the day-to-day operating of youth exchanges, delegation visits, and other cultural and educational programs. These Friend groups are integral to ensuring the lasting success of the program.

The City of Lawrence looks forward to our annual visits from residents of our Sister Cities and we are proud to offer interested Lawrence residents the opportunity to travel to these cities as well.

More information on the Sister Cities program is available on the City of Lawrence website: lawrenceks.org/boards/sister-cities

City info available online at lawrenceks.org and on cable Channel 25. The FLAME is published by the City Manager’s Office, 832-3400.
Beyond serving as an open house, this year’s 20th anniversary celebration included a special recognition for City of Lawrence employee Dale Seele. Seele has been the Community Health Facility building manager since it opened.

In recognition of Seele’s 20 years of service, one of the facility’s rooms was renamed as the, “Seele Meeting Room.” Seele was joined by friends and co-workers as the meeting room plaque was unveiled during a surprise presentation at the open house.

Congrats, Dale! We appreciate the hard work of you and your team over the past 20 years.

This year, the Community Health Facility is celebrating 20 years of servicing the Lawrence and Douglas County communities. Since its opening, the Community Health Facility has been home to the Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and the Douglas County Visiting Nurses Association.

On August 8, 2019, the organizations within the Community Health Facility celebrated 20 years of service by inviting members of the health community and the public to an open house. Attendees were able to tour the building and learn about how the different organizations continue to serve our community’s health needs.

Construction on the building began with a ground-breaking ceremony on October 11, 1997, and it opened in 1999. The total cost for its construction was $14.1 million and it was funded by a voter-approved 1994 sales tax question.

In the 20 years it has been operating, the Community Health Facility has helped more than 780,000 people.