

City of
Gainesville

Lauren Poe, Mayor
City of Gainesville

February 6, 2020

Welcoming
Gainesville and
the Sister City
Program of
Gainesville

President Eisenhower

founded in 1956

Two deeply held
convictions
unite us in common
purpose:

**First is our belief in
effective, responsive local
government as a principal
bulwark of freedom.**

**Second is our faith in the
great promise of sister
city affiliations in helping
build the solid structure
of world peace.**



SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL



500 U.S. cities

1,900 sister cities

in 136 countries

on six continents

Sister City Program of Gainesville, Inc.

Independent 501(c)(3) created in 1997



Encourages and assists municipal officers and members of the community to engage in long-term relationships with other Sister City programs throughout the world.

Mission is to promote friendship, cultural exchange, economic opportunity and shared experiences among citizens, institutions, businesses and officials of Gainesville and the world.

We currently have 9 Sister City relationships.



SisterCities
INTERNATIONAL

Connect globally. Thrive locally.

Deir Alla, Jordan



- Sister City relationship est. September 14, 2015
- Last visit between cities on August 3, 2019
- Part of a three-way relationship between Jordan, Israel and Palestine

Duhok, Iraq



- Sister City relationship est. September 25, 2006
- Last visit between cities on May 30, 2019



Jacmel, Haiti



- Sister City relationship est. in October, 1987
- Last visit between cities on May 3, 2017
- Active arts community and close ties with faculty at UF



Kfar Saba, Israel



- Sister City relationship est. February 23, 1998
- Last visit between cities on August 9, 2019
- Gainesville delegation visiting in February, 2020

Qalqilya, Palestine



- Sister City relationship est. February 23, 1998
- Last visit between cities on August 6, 2019
- Gainesville delegation visiting in February, 2020



Matagalpa, Nicaragua



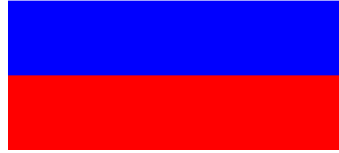
- Sister City relationship est. 1988
- Last visit between cities in 2010

Mejdlaya, Lebanon



- Sister City relationship est. March 5, 2015
- Last visit between cities on July 30, 2019

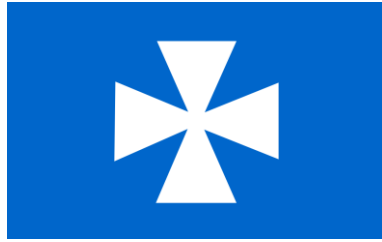
Novorossiisk, Russia



- Sister City relationship est. June 14, 1982
- Last visit on October 14, 2019



Rzeszów, Poland



- Sister City relationship est. February 21, 2013
- Last visit between cities on December 12, 2019
- Visit planned for May, 2020



Navigation 1

Navigation 2



Navigation 3

Navigation 4

Coming Soon: Ghana



- Will be our first African Sister City relationship
- Delegation planning on visiting this summer
- Delegation led by Commissioner Gail Johnson

Launched in 2009, Welcoming America is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that helps communities become more inclusive toward immigrants and all residents.

Welcoming America embraces the idea that communities are strongest when all people can participate in economic, civic, and social life.



Welcoming Gainesville

Welcoming Gainesville & Alachua County, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to making Gainesville, Florida an inclusive community.

We welcome all people, including immigrants, international students, and refugees and celebrates diversity as a source of strength and innovation.

Part of the nationwide Welcoming America network
Mission by:

creating and promoting immigrant-friendly policies,

communicating welcoming principles and the benefits of inclusion among residents, and

organizing programs and events that unite individuals from a variety of backgrounds.



*No importa de dónde eres,
estamos contentos que seas
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are
from, we're glad you're
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدتم، و لكننا
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

WG&AC was founded in 2015 on the following principles:

1. Eliminating prejudice
2. Celebrating diversity
3. Assisting newcomers in being established in our community.

WG&AC programs include:

- "Welcome Your Neighbor" yard signs
- English conversation partners
- Naturalization ceremonies
- Film screenings



Next Steps:

**Interest in new Sister
Cities?**

**Welcoming City
Certification?**

