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**CORVALLIS-GONDAR SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION WINS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL'S  
BEST OVERALL PROGRAM AWARD**

WASHINGTON, DC – Corvallis-Gondar Sister Cities Association has won Sister Cities International's 2014 Best Overall Program Award for a city with a population between 25,001 and 50,000. 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.

The mission of the Corvallis-Gondar Sister Cities Association (C-GSCA) is to collaborate with the people of sister city Gondar, Ethiopia to develop sustainable programs and promote cultural awareness, respect, and understanding. C-GSCA's priority includes improving the quality of life for citizens in Gondar has become the focus of all their efforts, in previous years and in 2013.

Specific projects in 2013 included supporting watershed restoration activities and developing/improving locally sustainable drinking water resources, and sanitation facilities. Projects also focused on improving the quality of student learning by promoting sound teaching practices in Gondar schools, through training and professional development, establishing computer access and literacy, and creating a culture of reading, math and science proficiency.

To successfully implement these projects, C-GSCA's working group members collaborated with Oregon State University, elementary and middle public schools, and churches in Corvallis, as well as local NGOs and schools in Gondar.

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, July 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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