



To promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation, one individual, one community at a time.

SISTER CITIES OF MORGAN HILL ADDS RELATIONSHIP WITH AMECA, JALISCO, MEXICO

Morgan Hill, Calif., (Jan. 7, 2019) – Sister Cities of Morgan Hill (SCMH) (www.morganhillsistercities.com/) is pleased to announce that it is adding a relationship with Ameca, Mexico, to its roster of city-to-city connections. The relationship is intended to promote the spirit of friendship, international cooperation, and goodwill between Morgan Hill and Ameca.

Examples of activities within Sister City relationships include visits between citizens of both cities, cultural exchanges between art, music, performing arts, sports, and other areas of mutual interest, plus possible affiliations between schools and student organizations. The relationship was formalized in a Morgan Hill Proclamation on Nov. 30, 2018, signed between former Mayor Steve Tate and Juan Valentín Serrano Jiménez, Municipal President of the City of Ameca.

The Ameca connection stems from an existing connection between the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill and the Rotary Club of Ameca, with most of the activities focused on community service projects, planned and executed in partnership. For example, the two Rotary Clubs have worked together since 2009 to provide computers, technology and infrastructure improvements to all of the primary schools in Ameca's inner city. In 2015 they signed a "Sister Club" proclamation, parallel to what the two Sister Cities Associations are currently planning. Peter Anderson, former president of Rotary Club of Morgan Hill, and John Kelley, vice president of SCMH, worked together on behalf of SCMH to usher in the newest friendship inaugurated in January 2019.

"Rotary Club of Morgan Hill's existing great work was a perfect spring board for Sister Cities, and we are grateful for the lead in," said Amy Whelan, president, Sister Cities of Morgan Hill. "We are lucky that John and Peter were able to channel time, energy, and expertise toward such a productive result. Bernie Mulligan, former president for SCMH, also did a great job in making the right connections to get the whole project going. It is exciting to see what will unfold in 2019 and beyond, especially since our existing Sister City relationships have spurred so many great activities, like student and cultural exchange programs with Mizuho, Japan, and San Casciano, Italy."

Sister Cities is an all-volunteer membership nonprofit formed in 2002. In addition to Ameca, it also hosts relationships with five international cities: San Casciano, Italy; Seferihisar, Turkey; San Martin de Hidalgo, Mexico; Mizuho, Japan; and Headford, Ireland.

PO Box 1834, Morgan Hill, CA 95038
www.morganhillsistercities.com

Tax exempt status provided by Morgan Hill Community Foundation, Tax ID 80-0001382

Currently SCMH is preparing for two of its larger programs in 2019, the Mizuho Morgan Hill Student Exchange Program and the San Casciano Cultural Exchange. Both are based on students traveling between Mizuho, Japan, and Morgan Hill, or San Casciano, Italy, and Morgan Hill, then hosting foreign students. Specifically, the San Casciano Exchange Program is actively searching for Morgan Hill families who are interested in hosting an Italian student in July 2019 for two weeks. If interested in finding out more, please contact amywhelan7@gmail.com. Host families should have a teen who is entering 10th or 11th grades, approximately 15-17 years old.

If interested in learning more about Sister Cities in general, the group hosts member meetings every fourth Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the Morgan Hill Centennial Recreation Center. The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, in a meeting room in the senior center. All are welcome to sit in and learn about the group before joining.

Morgan Hill's Sister City program is modeled on Sister Cities International (www.sistercities.org/), a world-wide organization fostering connections between cities, counties, or states. Connections between cities are usually based on shared similarities that can expand into a more thorough cultural exchange. Most Sister Cities organizations are comprised of volunteers, with the support of their local, elected officials. Sister Cities of Morgan Hill is under the fiscal sponsorship of the Morgan Hill Community Foundation.

###

Media Contact:

Amy Whelan

amywhelan7@gmail.com

PO Box 1834, Morgan Hill, CA 95038
www.morganhillsistercities.com

Tax exempt status provided by Morgan Hill Community Foundation, Tax ID 80-0001382