



# Connecting Communities

## What are “Sister Cities”?

A sister city is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities.

A city may have any number of sister cities, with community involvement ranging from a half dozen to hundreds of volunteers. In addition to volunteers, sister city organizations can include representatives from nonprofits, municipal governments, the private sector, and other civic organizations.

Each sister city organization is independent and pursues the activities and thematic areas that are important to them and their community including municipal, business, trade, educational, and cultural exchanges and projects with their sister city.

### Minneapolis Sister Cities

Winnipeg, Canada  
Santiago, Chile  
Harbin, China  
Tours, France  
Kuopio, Finland  
Najaf, Iraq  
Ibaraki City, Japan  
Eldoret, Kenya  
Cuernavaca, Mexico  
Novosibirsk, Russia  
Bosaso, Somalia  
Uppsala, Sweden

### St. Paul Sister Cities

Changsha, China  
Cuidad Romero, El Salvador  
Culiacandan, Mexico  
Manzanillo, Mexico  
Tiberias, Israel  
Lawaaikamp, South Africa  
Nagasaki, Japan  
Neuss, Germany  
Novosibirsk, Russia

## German Sister Cities in the U.S.

Germany has the fourth most U.S. sister cities in the world (100), including many of the oldest partnerships in the network, spanning 31 states. Below is a partial list of Minnesota's Sister Cities:

**Saint Paul**  
Neuss, Germany

**Rochester**  
Moosburg, Germany

**Hibbing**  
Walsrode, Germany

**Melrose**  
Bühl, Germany  
Legden, Germany

**New Ulm**  
Neu-Ulm, Germany  
Ulm, Germany

**Shoreview**  
Einhausen, Germany

**Worthington**  
Crailsheim, Germany



### *In Ulm, um Ulm, und um Ulm herum*

- > Ulm, founded around 850, is on the Baden-Württemberg side of the Danube River (left in the photo below).
- > Neu-Ulm, first mentioned in records in 1814, on the Bavarian side of the Danube River.
- > New Ulm, Minnesota, was founded in 1854. Many of the residents of the town were originally from the Ulm area in southern Germany (inset photo).

> The Sister Cities International program was created by Dwight Eisenhower in 1956. However, New Ulm already had a special relationship with Ulm and Neu-Ulm. The German cities had asked for and received relief assistance from New Ulm after WWI and again after WWII.

UN Sustainable Development Goal

