

November 2, 2012

Chris Lee
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200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

2012 Sister Cities annual report

Dear Sister City Committee:

This year, the Milwaukee Carora Sister Cities Committee (MCSCC) has been actively engaged in the promotion of our Sister City relationship. MCSCC has also continued in educating the public about this special relationship and has worked to maintain ties with Caroran friends and supporters.

Between April 21 and 28, we held our seventh annual, week-long film festival at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, "Documentaries Desde el Sur." The festival offers a variety of films, many of which are focused directly on Venezuela and its culture, social system, etc. Attendance throughout the week has risen each year and usually reaches about 350 people, who leave with a greater grasp of the reality of life in our Sister City. Aside from being an enjoyable event, MCSCC takes this opportunity to reach members of the community and update individuals on upcoming events and opportunities. This year's festival also included a special visit from Emmy-award winning director, Saul Landau.

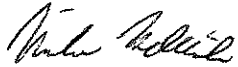
On October 7, 2012, Erik Sperling, co-founder of Milwaukee's Sister City relationship with Carora, was invited by Venezuela's National Electoral Council to be an international observer during Venezuela's presidential election. Erik, a current law student at Georgetown University, was also able to visit Carora on that trip, maintaining ties with Carorans who are interested in and have been supportive of the Sister City relationship.

Also on October 7, 2012, and in conjunction with Erik's work on the ground in Venezuela, MCSCC hosted a Venezuelan election viewing party, complete with Venezuelan food, Venezuelan television via the internet, and Skype video calls with Caroran friends. Folks who had visited Carora also shared their impressions and experiences. This was very enjoyable, and we look forward to maintaining close relations with Caroran folks through Skype in the future.

On November 15, author Steve Brouwer will visit Milwaukee to speak on his latest book, Revolutionary Doctors: How Venezuela and Cuba are Changing the World's Conception of Health Care. Mr. Brouwer has visited Carora, and lived 45 minutes away from Carora (in Dane County's Sister City of Sanare). We look forward to educating the public about the extensive and unique gains in medicine and medical care that Carora and Sanare have undertaken. As an organization, we also look forward to exploring the possibilities of future collaborations between Milwaukee, Carora, and Sanare, specifically in the realm of promoting medical student visits and tours of the medical programs there.

On behalf of the Milwaukee Carora Sister Cities Committee, I thank the City of Milwaukee for its continued support of our Sister City relationship with Carora. This relationship has provided the opportunity for meaningful (and continuing) people-to-people relationship building, and all the benefit that accompanies such interaction, cooperation, and education.

Thank you,



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