



Sister Cities International facilitates nearly 2,000 partnerships in 136 countries on six continents between 600 communities in the United States with similar municipalities abroad.

Sister Cities International represents citizen diplomats who work tirelessly to promote the organizations' mission of creating world peace and cultural understanding through economic and sustainable development programs, youth and education projects, arts and culture, and humanitarian assistance.

[Sister Cities International
Humanitarian Award](#)

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Houston-Karachi Sister City Association Wins the ● ● ● Sister Cities International 2011 Innovation Humanitarian Assistance Award

In 2012, the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association was selected as the winner of the the [Sister Cities International 2011 Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance Award](#) for a city with population more than 500,001.

The award was presented at the 56th Annual Sister Cities International Conference: A New Era for Citizen Diplomacy in Jacksonville, Florida, on July 14th, 2012. Citizens diplomats from more than 20 countries attended this important event.



Humanitarian Award



Ellen Golberg, President Siter Cities Houston, Cristal Montanez, Executive Director Hashoo Foundation USA, with Mayor Alvin Brown of Jacjsonville at Sister Cities International Annual Convention



Mary Kane, President Sister Cities International, Cristal Montanez and Representative from India



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Humanitarian Award



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Sister Cities International 2011 Innovation Humanitarian Assistance Award



Cristal Montañez Baylor, Executive Director Hashoo Foundation USA, member of the Executive Board of Directors of Houston-Karachi Sister City Association and Alliance for Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts Coordinating Committee, received the Sister Cities International 2011 Innovation: Humanitarian Assistance Award on behalf of these organizations.

During the Best Practices: Humanitarian Assistance Workshop Panel, Cristal shared the phases of development which made the implementation of this project successful. Ellen Israel Goldberg, Sister Cities of Houston President and Leslie Santamaria, City of Houston Protocol Manager & Sister City Coordinator represented Houston at the event.

The Innovation awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding community and individual Sister City programs that promote peace through mutual respect, understanding, and cooperation.



Humanitarian Award



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Alliance of Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts Blessings in Unity

A United Effort of the Greater Houston Community Led by the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association to Serve the People Affected by the Devastating Floods in Sindh, Pakistan

In response to the devastating floods of 2011 that affected more than 5.3 million people in Sindh Pakistan, the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association (HKSCA) called a meeting of all the leading community organizations and media outlets of Houston.

Under the leadership of President of HKSCA Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, an Alliance of Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts was formed consisting of 42 community businesses, organizations, and media outlets.

The Alliance raised \$81,000 in cash and \$100,000 in in-kind donation. The donated items were distributed to 1,200 families in the Mirpur Khas internally displaced persons camp in Pakistan's Sindh province.

The Alliance continues to meet to monitor the donations and its impact.



Alliance of Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts Blessings in Unity

Alliance Partners

- 1) Pakistan Prime Minister's Flood Relief Fund (Consulate of Pakistan in Houston)
- 2) Aisha Foundation
- 3) Angels in Cowboys Boots (Graciously Provided the 1,220 Buckets)
- 4) Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America (APPNA) South Texas Chapter
- 5) Bandu Khan Restaurant
- 6) Famous Foods Products
- 7) Hashoo Foundation USA
- 8) Helping Hand For Relief & Development (HHRD)
- 9) HOPE Foundation
- 10) House of Charity
- 11) Houston-Istanbul Sister City Association (HISCA)
- 12) Houston-Karachi Sister City Association (HKSCA)
- 13) Imamia Medics
- 14) Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH)
- 15) Muslim Council of USA
- 16) One Dollar Store on Jensen Road
- 17) Pakistani-American Association of Greater Houston (PAGH)
- 18) Pakistan Association of Golden Triangle (PAGT)
- 19) Pakistani-American Society of Texas (PAST)
- 20) Pakistan Chamber of Commerce USA (PCC-USA)
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- 25) Sindhi Association of North America (SANA)
- 26) Sun Charity
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- 28) The Citizens Foundation (TCF)
- 29) Voices Breaking Boundaries (VBB)
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- 35) Pakistan Times
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- 37) Radio Light Of Islam
- 38) Radio Music-in-the-Box
- 39) Radio Naya Andaz
- 40) Radio Perdes
- 41) Radio Sangeet
- 42) Radio Sangeet



Summary of the Efforts by the Alliance Presented at the Sister Cities International Annual Convention in Jacksonville

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Alliance of Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts Blessings in Unity

A United Effort of the Greater Houston Community Led by the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association to Serve the People Affected by the Devastating Floods in Sindh, Pakistan



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A United Effort of the Greater Houston Community Led by the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association to Serve the People Affected by the Devastating Floods in Sindh, Pakistan

In response to the devastating floods in late summer of 2011 in Sindh Pakistan, the Houston-Karachi Sister City Association (HKSCA) called a meeting of all the leading community organizations and media outlets of Houston; and under the leadership of President of HKSCA Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, an "Alliance of Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts" was formed, consisting of 42 community businesses, organizations, and media outlets.

Floods Background Information

In August 2011, monsoon rains have caused widespread flooding in southern Pakistan affecting over 5.3 million people. The floods exacerbated the situation in Sindh Province, where communities are still recovering from last year's floods. Nearly 1 million homes were partially or fully destroyed and an estimated 222,000 people are in temporary camps. The most acute needs were shelter, food security, water, sanitation hygiene and health.

Call to Action - Phase I: The Planning

Chairperson of the Alliance Muhammad Saeed Sheikh (HKSCA) in consultation with Executive Body of the Alliance came up with the idea of organizing a fundraising event at the Turkish Center in Houston and put together an in-kind gift forty feet Container to be sent from Houston to Pakistan.



Following persons from the Executive Board of HKSCA were part of the Executive Committee of the Alliance:

- Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, Chief Coordinator of the Alliance (Chairperson)
- Cristal Montañez Baylor, Liaison Committee of the Alliance
- Madoob Khan, Logistics Committee of the Alliance
- Lyas Choudry, Secretary of the Alliance





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Phase II: The Fundraising Dinner

The fundraising dinner held at the picturesque Turkish Center in Houston event was hosted by the Alliance of Pakistan Floods Relief Efforts in order to collect funds for the flood victims of Sindh.

Through the efforts by Muhammad Saeed Sheikh of HKSCA resulted in under-writing of the fundraising event by Syed Javid Anwer of Midland Energy and Turkish Raindrop House.



The event counted with the participation of the Consul General of Pakistan Mohammad Aqil Nadeem, Vice Consul General of Turkey Salim Tapchko, Mehmet Okumus of Turkish Center, PJ Swati of PCC-USA, Cristal Montañez Baylar of Hashoo Foundation informed the audience on the critical condition of the floods victims of Sindh and representatives of the Alliance member organizations Helping Hand (USA) For Relief & Development, HOPE USA, Raindrops Helping Hands and Sindh Association of North America (SANA) made presentations of their work in Sindh. Matsoob Khan (ISGH Bear Creek) and others did an effective fundraising and auctioning of traditional Sindh garments and accessories.

Community leaders, Ghulam Bombaywala, Matsoob Khan (ISGH Bear Creek) and others did an effective fundraising and auctioning of traditional Sindh garments and accessories.



Around \$80,000 were raised during this fundraising. These funds were received in the names of four 501 (c) (3) humanitarian organizations plus Prime Minister of Pakistan Fund, and then the check and pledges information was given to these organizations; Sindh Association of North America (SANA), Helping Hand For Relief & Development (HHRD), HOPE International, and Helping Hands Raindrop.

Phase III: Community Mobilization and Container Preparation and Send-Off of In-Kind Gifts

Under the dynamic leadership of Alliance Chairperson and President of the HKSCA Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, the Alliance mobilized the Houston community and local businesses, who generously donated the necessary nutritious rice, lentils, cooking oil, pinto beans, biscuits, black tea, baby milk, toothpaste, toothbrush, bath soap, shampoo, mineral water, footwear, new children clothes, and blanket; to fill the buckets donated by Angels in Cowboy Boots (AICB).



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These AICB buckets were received through the efforts of *Cristal Montañez Baytor*, Executive Director *Mashoo Foundation USA*. After two weekend's community volunteering efforts, a forty feet container was made ready. In all almost \$102,000 wholesale value of In-Kind Gifted items were received and processed.



Sheikh welcomed the guests and briefed them on the Alliance achievements, which included the fund raising drive collection of \$80,000 and the shipment of a 40-foot container filled with in-kind donations and humanitarian aid with an approximate value of over \$100,000.





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Helping Hands USA has graciously committed to handle the transportation logistics and the distribution of the humanitarian aid to the people of Sindh in Pakistan.

Guests of honor, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congressman Al Green, and City of Houston Council Member Al Hong, participated in send-off ceremony and handed over the container to Mr. Ilyas Choudry area representative of Helping Hand USA, and presented Certificates of Congressional Recognition to the Alliance Coordinator Muhammad Saeed Sheikh and members of working committee, Celli Yaka, Talat Talpur, Mian Nazeer, Mansoor Soomo, Sohail Soomo, Cristal Montañez Baylor and Matloob Khan.



The program was conducted by Noomisa Ganghroo and was attended by the Honorable Consul General of Pakistan Aqil Nadeem and the Honorable Consul General of Turkey Camalın Aydın, and by a large number of community leaders, including Haroon Sheikh, P.J.Khan, Gul Fraz Khan, Khaleed Khan, David Goodwin, and Tasleem Siddiqui, among others.



The container departed from the Port of Houston to the Port of Karachi on December 6, 2011, and it is expected to reach the people of Sindh by the middle of March 2012.

Phase IV: Distribution of Raised Funds and In-Kind Donation to the People of Sindh

Container Reached Pakistan

Helping Hand For Relief & Development (HHRD) had graciously committed to handle the transportation logistics, payment of all the shipping costs, and the distribution of the humanitarian aid in this Container to the people of Sindh in Pakistan. Saleem Rajani, President of Karachi-Houston Sister City Association (KHSCA), the counterpart of HKSCA in Pakistan did the coordination with Riazat Saqib of HHRD and Dr. Shafiqat Hassan Daheeri (Representative of Alliance in Pakistan). Twenty volunteers worked to identify the deserving 1,220 deserving victims of the floods to receive the buckets.

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As the items when received in Pakistan were not packed equally in the buckets, all of the 1,220 buckets were reopened to ensure the packing according to the quantity and variety with the concern that every beneficiary family should get reasonable and equal quantity of each item. Each bucket was contained of rice, lentils, cooking oil, pinto beans, biscuits, black tea, baby milk, toothpaste, toothbrush, bath soap, shampoo, mineral water, footwear, children clothes and blanket.

Distribution Ceremony was held at Govt. High School Tando Jan Muhammad at 9:30am. on May 19th, 2012. Dr. Shafqat Hassan Daheri (EDO Health) was the Chief Guest. Mr. Riasat Sagib (Senior Program Officer – HHRD) apprised the audience about the Alliance and description of the donations.

Around 1,220 families (7,000 individuals, including male, female, children) benefited from this distribution. Minorities and Senior Citizens particularly female beneficiaries were given special attention.



Update - Use of Funds

Helping Hand For Relief & Development (HHRD) received \$23,993 from this effort of HKSCA and Alliance; and have recently submitted a report of their efforts. They utilized these funds in seven Union Councils, Muhammad Khan Bhurgani District Badin; Dolatpur District Mirpur Khas; Tando Allah Yar; Maldasi District Sanghar; Kandhari District Sanghar; Bandhi District Benazirabad; and Karam Nizamani District Maşari. They intervened in these areas: health care, food assistance, provision of clean drinking water and distribution of hygiene items.





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Approximate numbers of beneficiaries is as follow: cooked meals 6,500, non-perishable food package 11,000, health assistance 3,000, water 15,000, hygiene kits 135, tents 300 and 80 mosquito nets.



Sindhi Association of North America (SANA), HOPE International, and Helping Hands Raindrop committed to submit their report at the end of July 2012.

Alliance Partners

- | | |
|--|---|
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