

Hermosa Beach Sister City Association

Promoting Peace and
Cultural Understanding
Since 1967



Sister city



Sister cities or twin towns are a form of legal or social agreement between towns, cities, counties, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, regions, states, and even countries in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties. [Wikipedia](#)



Our Mission:

To promote peace and cultural understanding through a people to people program



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2008

House of Representatives

THE HERMOSA BEACH SISTER CITY PROGRAM: 40 YEARS OF GOODWILL AND ENDURING FRIENDSHIP

Madam Speaker, to many, Hermosa Beach is a beautiful coastal community blessed by perfect weather, endless sun and surf. But few would know that it is home to one of the oldest and strongest international exchange programs in the United States.

It all started in 1967, when the Hermosa Beach City Council established a "Sister City" program with the citizens of Loreto, Mexico. Back then, Loreto was a small community on the pristine Baja coast of the Sea of Cortez – famous for sport fishing, whales, cave paintings and colonial missions. Its Spanish mission, founded in 1697, was the first in all of the California's.

Over the past 40 years, the Hermosa Beach Sister City Association (HBSCA) has provided funding and other support for educational and humanitarian programs for Loreto. Among the most notable is the middle school student exchange program. Every spring, Hermosa Beach 7th and 8th grade students travel to Loreto – and vice versa – where they gain language skills, opportunities to learn about a different

culture from host families and field trips, and lifetime memories.

The HBSCA also assists the people of Loreto with critical medical care. As recently as 1998, Loreto had no emergency medical treatment facilities. Through a partnership between physicians in Loreto and Hermosa Beach, the HBSCA has been able to provide badly needed medical training and equipment, including paramedic gear and even an ambulance.

Since its inception, Sister City programs have benefited both cities and their citizens. Loreto has become a home away from home for Hermosans, who have in turn helped improve the quality of life for Loretans. One of our nation's oldest sister city programs shines as a stellar example of the impact global exchange can have on our world.

I congratulate the citizens of Hermosa Beach and Loreto on achieving this impressive milestone.

A Congressionally Recognized Organization

Our Sister City: Loreto, Baja CA Sur, Mexico



Loreto

Approximately 830 miles from Los Angeles

Town in Mexico

Loreto is a city on Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, on the Gulf of California. Its colonial buildings include the Misión de Nuestra Señora de Loreto, a 17th-century church. Off the coast, the islands and waters of Bahía de Loreto National Park are home to dolphins, whales and pelicans. The city is backed by the Sierra de la Giganta mountain range, where trails lead to prehistoric cave paintings.





Our Capstone Programs:



Student Exchange Program



Paramedic Training Program



Casa Hogar La Esperanza



Student Exchange Program

Started by Joe and Marie Diaz in 1974

Longest running Middle School Student Exchange Program in the Nation

American Students from the Beach Cities visit Loreto and stay with Loreto Families in the Spring. Mexican Students visit Hermosa Beach and stay with Beach Cities Families in the Summer.

Paramedic Training Program



1999

- 3 Hermosa Beach Paramedics, Paul Hawkins, Mike Garafano, and Kim Bridges, volunteer to train Loreto Bomberos. They train in Loreto twice a year for the next 20 years.

2019

- After 20 years, 11 Loreto Bomberos have passed the US certification for Paramedic and provide services to the Loreto community. They provide training to other Baja California Bomberos. Our goal is to create a regional training center in Loreto.

Casa Hogar La Esperanza



Group
Foster Care
Home in
Loreto



Building
Improvements



Donations for
the children

More about HBSCA:

Visit us at [online](#) and on [Facebook](#)

Non-Profit

- 501c3
- By-Laws
- Raise money through Fundraising Events

Entirely Volunteers

- Board Members serve for 2-year terms: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary
- Monthly Meetings with Members

Community Minded

- Member of HB Chamber of Commerce
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Hermosa Fiestas
- Hermosa Tree Lighting