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Grant boosts Delray's outreach to African sister city

DAVID DIPINO dddipino@tribune.com

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With a two-year, \$115,000 grant from Sister Cities International courtesy of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Sister Cities of [Delray Beach](#) Inc. will soon begin helping the African city of Moshi improve waste pickup.

[Delray Beach](#) was one of just two Florida cities to be awarded the grant for Phase 2 of Sister Cities International's Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Program and one of only 34 nationally to be selected to use \$7.5 million in grant funds for projects addressing sanitation, water and health needs in Africa's urban areas. The other Florida city, Jacksonville, will assist the city of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, with a water purification project.

"This is the first grant we've ever applied for and the most funding a Sister Cities of [Delray Beach](#) Inc. initiative has ever received," said David Schmidt, president of the nonprofit organization.

Moshi is located in Tanzania, part of the Kilimanjaro region of eastern Africa. [Delray Beach](#)'s other sister city is Miyazu, Japan.

Frances Reimer, community programs manager for Sister Cities International, said the 17 grant recipients were selected by an independent panel of five experts in the areas of sister city relationships, aid administration and international development. Reimer said the project is part of a three-year plan to alleviate poverty in 25 African cities through water, sanitation and health initiatives.



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U.S. sister cities will collaborate with their African counterparts to identify and address the most critical problems – problems that prevent sustained development in urban areas. Development experts will help plan and execute the projects.

"The sister cities network will capitalize on local members' technical and professional expertise; links to city government, academia, nonprofits, and the private sector and the long-term, people-to-people relationships they have developed over time to create projects that are both technically sound and based at the grass-roots level," Reimer said.

Schmidt said the new grant will help to expand Moshi's municipal waste pickup operation, which includes 70 employees and four trucks.

"They're very interested in learning ways to expand garbage pickup in the city," he said. "We are proud to be part of the second phase of the Sister Cities International's Africa Urban Poverty Alleviation Program. With this grant, we will be able to expand solid waste collection and disposal."

At press time, Reimer was heading to Africa to meet with project strategists.

Sister Cities of [Delray Beach](#) meets the first Thursday of each month from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the first-floor conference room of City Hall, 100 NW First Ave.

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