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Eighth Annual Toledo Sister Cities International Festival Happens This Saturday, April 29

(Toledo, OH) --- Jim Hartung, President, Toledo Sister Cities International Board of Trustees, announced today that final preparations are underway for the Eighth Annual International Festival which kicks off this Saturday, April 29, at 10 a.m. with the Parade of Nations at Savage Arena on the campus of the University of Toledo. The festival continues until 6 p.m.

The International Festival, hosted by Toledo Sister Cities and sponsored in part by The Blade, The University of Toledo, and Reynolds Clinic, is a family-fun event with eight hours of music, dance, and ethnic foods celebrating cultures from Spain, China, Hungary, Poland, Japan, Tanzania, Germany, Lebanon, Pakistan, and India, as well as other local groups. Additionally vendors will be selling crafts from around the world. Last year over 3,000 people attended the International Festival and over 20 local groups performed.

Additionally, beer, wine, coffee, soft drinks, and water will be sold, along with the ethnic foods. Admission is \$5 for advanced purchase, seniors 65 and older, and students with I.D. General Admission at the door is \$7, and children 10 and younger are free. Parking is free.

The Toledo Sister Cities International Festival holds the distinction of being the first festival of the season in Northwest Ohio.

“We hear people talk about diversity. This festival highlights our diversity with different ethnic entertainment, foods, crafts, souvenirs, and even a language corner,” said Mr. Hartung. “This really is our opportunity to share pride in our heritages and learn about other cultures --- To truly show the diversity of not just Toledo, but all of Northwest Ohio.”

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international festival / 4-24-2017 / add one

Toledo Sister Cities International is a 501c3 organization and has been at the forefront of building international relationships between municipalities since 1931. It is widely believed that the first “sister city” relationship --- anywhere --- was established between Toledo, Ohio and Toledo, Spain that year. In 1956, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower continued to foster Sister Cities agreements on a mayor-to-mayor basis. Toledo Sister Cities International is in its 24th year of service and has established agreements with Coimbatore (India); Delmenhorst (Germany); Hyderabad (Pakistan); Poznan (Poland); Qinhuangdao (China); Szeged (Hungary); Tanga (Tanzania); Toledo (Spain); and Toyohashi (Japan). A regional agreement is in place with Bekaa Valley (Lebanon).

Toledo Sister Cities also runs the International Youth Academy, which brings youth from all over the world to Toledo for a two-week period during the summer months. Additionally, Toledo Sister Cities assists in the facilitation of area economic development ventures by providing cultural, educational, language and other key services.

For more information on the Eighth Annual Toledo Sister Cities International Festival visit <http://www.toledosistercities.org>

To become a member, volunteer, or make a tax deductible donation please contact us at scitoledo@gmail.com or P.O. Box 353004, Toledo, OH 43615.

Editor's Note: To arrange for Saturday morning TV live shots, contact Matt Zaleski at 419-345-5206