

WALNUT CREEK
◆ SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ◆

Noceto, Italy became Walnut Creek's Sister City in September of 1987. Noceto's Mayor first approached Walnut Creek to explore a sister city relationship in early 1986. From 1987-1990 the Junior Women's and Women's Clubs of Walnut Creek sponsored the Walnut Creek Sister City Committee. In 1990, the Committee attained its own non-profit organization status.

In the fall of 1991, Siófok, Hungary was added to the family, with formal agreements signed by representatives of both cities in February 1993. In 1993, as a result of adding to our international family, the organization changed its name to Walnut Creek Sister Cities International (W.C.S.C.I.).

The volunteers of W.C.S.C.I. develop projects in these three program areas:

Cultural Exchanges

- Formal group visitations
- Exchanges in the Arts

Student Exchange

- Pen-pal correspondence for all ages
- Home stay visitations
- Teacher exchanges
- Student art contests/exchanges

Visitors' Aid

- Providing individual travellers with local contacts

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Sister Cities International grew out of the People-to-People program developed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. His idea was to involve people and organized groups at all levels of our society in personal diplomacy. The fundamental goal of the Sister City program is to make a significant contribution to global peace through exchanges of people, ideas, and cultures.

The Sister City program is a unique, two-way, give-and-take program that is shared by two communities. It provides a vehicle for planned and continuous contact between the cities and their citizens and offers a mechanism for individuals and organizations to be actively involved in the rewarding field of international relations at the local level. The program is driven by volunteer commitment, energy, and talent.

"The Sister City Program is an important resource to the negotiations of governments in letting the people themselves give expression to their common desire for friendship, good will, and cooperation for a better world for all."

—President Dwight D. Eisenhower

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BIRDSAIL DESIGNS



Karen Cassano
 2841 Bowling Green Dr.
 Walnut Creek, CA 94598
 944-1238



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 1666 North Main Street
 Walnut Creek, California 94596

NOCETO, ITALY

SIÓFOK, HUNGARY

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA, USA

http://www.sister-cities.org/index

◆ **NOCETO, ITALY** ◆

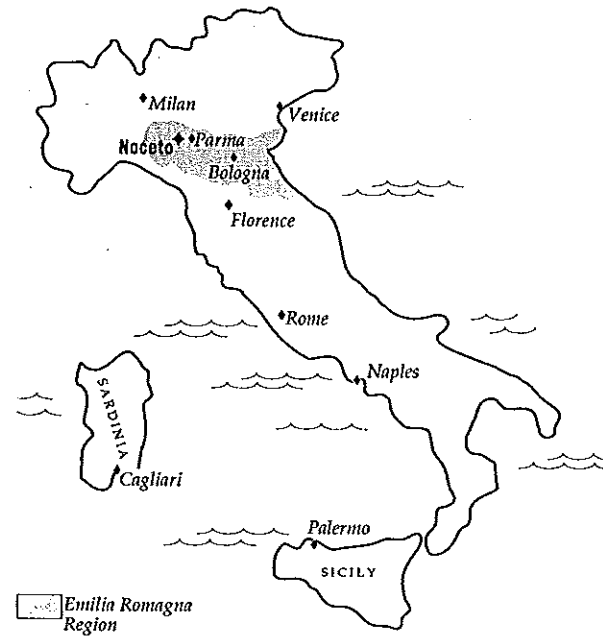
Noceto ("Walnut Grove") is a small town (population 10,000) located near the city of Parma within the Emilia Romagna Region in Northern Italy. Noceto is connected by highway and national railway to cities on the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas.

Agriculture is the main industry. Noceto produces various grains, fruits and vegetables, *prosciutto*, and dairy products — especially Parmesan cheese. Small factories related to food production and manufacturing have also been established. Coincidentally, industrial and population expansion in Noceto began about 1960, the same time as similar growth occurred in Walnut Creek.

The first historical reference to Noceto was in 835 A.D., even though its origins date as early as 183 B.C. Noceto officially became a city in 1795, in the republic of Cisalpina, and again in 1860, the year Italy was unified.



SISTER CITY SINCE 1987



The village grew around the 12th Century fortress, "La Rocca," or "the Rock." Reconstructed several times, La Rocca was given its present form in 1480 by the powerful Rossi family. It now belongs to the City and is the historic center of Noceto. Castelguelfo, a nearby 15th Century castle with magnificent lateral and central towers and large central courtyards, is said to be connected to La Rocca by a tunnel. Its strategic position on the Via Emilia gave it historic importance.

◆ **SIÓFOK, HUNGARY** ◆

Siófok is a beautiful city on the shores of Lake Balaton, the largest lake in Central Europe. Siófok is surrounded by lush rolling hills and agricultural land. It is connected to Budapest by a four lane highway and a rail line.

There has been a settlement at this site since the time of the Roman Empire. Throughout its long history, Siófok has preserved its rightful place as the capital of the "Hungarian Sea".



SISTER CITY SINCE 1991



Since Roman times, Siófok has been a summer tourist mecca. The population of 25,000 swells to over 150,000 for the summer. Cultural and recreational activities abound during the tourist season.

The Hungarian American Club of Siófok and Walnut Creek Sister Cities International are instrumental in organizing projects between Siófok and Walnut Creek.