



JCI – Junior Chamber International

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JCI

JCI is a membership-based nonprofit organization of young active citizens ages 18 to 40 in more than 100 countries who are dedicated to creating positive change in their communities. Each JCI member shares the belief that in order to create lasting positive change, we must improve ourselves and the world around us. JCI members take ownership of their communities by identifying problems and creating targeted solutions to create impact.

Our Philosophy

As global citizens, we all have rights and responsibilities, as well as shared goals. Through active citizenship, we embrace social responsibility and work towards goals that benefit communities worldwide. JCI members embrace new ideas, collaboration and diversity. Guided by the vision and initiative to transform their lives and the world, JCI members have the courage to address the great challenges of our time.

A Framework for Results

The JCI Active Citizen Framework provides a methodology for running sustainable, needs-based projects that create measurable results in communities. The process starts with assessing community needs in health and wellness, education and economic empowerment, and sustainability. By engaging partners and evaluating results, JCI members ensure their projects deliver effective positive change.

JCI Around the World

With around 5,000 JCI Local Organizations in more than 100 JCI National Organizations, JCI forms a vibrant global community of nearly 200,000 active citizens. All members belong to a JCI Local Organization where they focus on finding solutions to problems in their local community. Local Organizations are affiliated to National Organizations. This structure forms a global grassroots movement, empowering members to run international projects, exchange ideas and work together to develop new ways to create positive change in their communities.

JCI Mission

To provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change.

JCI Vision

To be the leading global network of young active citizens.

JCI Values

That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;
That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;
That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;
That government should be of laws rather than of men;
That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;
And that service to humanity is the best work of life.



International Events

Every year, JCI members unite at JCI international events to foster cooperation across boundaries, engage in dialogue to ignite global development projects and unite the JCI global network.

JCI World Congress

Every November, members from across the globe come together for the peak of the JCI year at JCI World Congress. At this global forum, delegates elect the next year's officers, meet JCI members from more than 100 countries, find new ways to create positive change and magnify the positive impact of the JCI movement.

JCI Area Conferences

Every year in April through June, JCI members unite in their regions for JCI Area Conferences to exchange ideas, learn how to maximize their local impact and collaborate with other National Organizations in their Areas. The four Area Conferences - Africa and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, the Americas and Europe – give members a chance to take advantage of JCI's international network while enhancing their National Organizations.

JCI Summits

As young active citizens, JCI Members join the global dialogue of the day through JCI Summits in partnership with the UN Global Compact, the International Chamber of Commerce, the UN Foundation and other key partners. Each year, members gather with leaders of government, civil society, business and United Nations agencies to debate, learn and transform vibrant ideas into concrete action. Previous Summits have focused on global partnership, the UN Millennium Development Goals, Corporate Social Responsibility and climate change.

JCI History

Our global organization of nearly 200,000 young active citizens grew out of the vision of one man more than 90 years ago as a constructive approach to civic problems. Henry Giessenbier, Jr. decided to take responsibility for the progress and welfare of his community by helping tackle difficult problems around him. Together with 32 other young men, Giessenbier established JCI's first Local Organization, in St. Louis, USA, in 1915. The members of the first Local Organization dedicated themselves to bringing about community improvements and empowering young people to create positive change.

By 1944, the movement had spread through eight countries. When delegates from these countries met in Mexico City at the Inter-American Conference that year, they agreed it was time to officially form Junior Chamber International. This deep-rooted tradition of bringing together active citizens from diverse backgrounds remains alive today in our international events. They fuel the JCI movement and lay the groundwork to create positive change that transcends boundaries.



Programs With Partners

On the international level, JCI partners with global organizations with mutual values and goals to maximize the impact of the local work our members do every day.

United Nations and the UN Millennium Development Goals

JCI has officially partnered with the UN since 1954 and holds a Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In 2003, JCI committed to advancing the UN Millennium Development Goals (UN MDGs), a set of time-bound targets for poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation and discrimination against women. JCI members organize thousands of projects every year committed to advancing the goals with the UN MDGs as a framework.

Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility with the UN Global Compact

The UN Global Compact works to advance ten principles in the areas of human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. JCI partners with the UN Global Compact to engage small- and medium-sized enterprises to adopt these principles to be responsible and profitable in a competitive global market.

International Chamber of Commerce-World Chambers Federation (ICC-WCF) and Global Economic Progress

The ICC is the voice of world business championing the global economy as a force for economic growth. Through our partnership with the ICC-WCF, JCI Local Organizations work with local chambers of commerce on projects to advance global economic progress and encourage entrepreneurship, including the JCI Best Business Plan Competition (JCI BBP). Through JCI BBP young entrepreneurs are awarded for integrating the principles of social responsibility into their business plans.

Combating Malaria with the UN Foundation and JCI *Nothing But Nets*

Malaria is the leading killer of children in Africa, but this deadly disease can be prevented with the use of insecticide-treated bed nets. Through JCI *Nothing But Nets*, a campaign in partnership with the UN Foundation's *Nothing But Nets* initiative, JCI members work raise global awareness about malaria and to purchase and distribute bed nets and educate families on their proper use.

Encouraging Innovation with Flanders District of Creativity

The JCI Creative Young Entrepreneur Award (JCI CYEA), run in partnership with Flanders District of Creativity, recognizes outstanding young individuals who have started a business using creativity or have improved an existing business through innovative problem solving. Highlighting these young innovators inspires JCI members to strive for creativity in their endeavors and prove how creative concepts can translate into practical business solutions.

Pan American Health Organization and Child Health

JCI has worked with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) since 1994 to implement cooperation agreements focusing on children in Latin American JCI National Organizations. Enjoying international recognition as part of the United Nations system, PAHO serves as the Regional Office for the Americas of the World Health Organization. PAHO supports JCI National Organizations in Latin America to implement projects related to MDG 4: reducing child mortality.

JCI also maintains relationships with UNESCO, the Conference on Nongovernmental Organizations (CONGO), AIESEC, NGO Committee on UNICEF and the Hanns-Seidel Foundation.



JCI Programs

JCI Programs, offered locally, nationally and internationally, provide members opportunities to learn, achieve and inspire active citizenship while engaging their communities in new and innovative ways.

The JCI Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World (JCI TOYP)

Every year, JCI selects 10 outstanding young people under 40 who live the JCI Mission in extraordinary ways. The accomplishments of these young active citizens in a variety of fields inspire us to be better and realize our full potential as active citizens. JCI TOYP is run locally, nationally and internationally.

JCI Training

Providing development opportunities that empower young people is an essential part of the JCI Mission. JCI Training provides opportunities for JCI members to improve themselves and use those skills to improve the world around them. Currently, JCI Trainers are working with UNESCO to develop tolerance and cultural awareness training programs to teach young people to value diversity.

The JCI World Public Speaking Championship

Public speaking is a critical skill for leaders to motivate others toward positive change. At the JCI World Public Speaking Championship, members face the challenge of expressing creative ideas in a clear and captivating manner. National Public Speaking contest winners compete at the JCI Area Conferences, then the winners for each Conference go on to represent their geographical area at the JCI World Congress.

The JCI World Debating Championship, Sponsored by 1963 JCI President Eric H. Stevenson

Debating skills equip members to resolve conflicts, respect differences and overcome obstacles. Discussing relevant current topics, contestants support their perspective with compelling arguments. Capacity-building events like this build a foundation of teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving that members use to address issues in their local communities.

JCI Twinning

The JCI Twinning Program formally links two or more JCI Local Organizations who are interested in collaborating. Twinning partners learn, exchange ideas, forge diverse connections and gain a unique perspective on the world as they participate in joint cross-cultural projects. Twinning leverages the JCI global network to gain a deeper understanding of international cooperation.

JCI Operation Hope

Every day, JCI members take action to create sustainable positive change in their communities. But when natural disasters strike, members go above and beyond to respond to the communities in distress.

Through JCI Operation Hope, JCI members unite to take action in the aftermath of tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters, reaching across the globe to sustain recovery initiatives and rebuild communities. JCI officially launched JCI Operation Hope on January 1, 2005 to empower members to take action in the face of natural disasters. Recent disasters assisted by Operation Hope include the earthquakes in Japan, New Zealand and Haiti and the floods in Pakistan.

Visit www.jci.cc to learn more about how JCI members around the world are working to create positive change, or contact news@jci.cc.