



Denver Sister Cities International Newsletter
May 15, 2020

Happy Friday DSCI Friends!

Hope you are enjoying a fantastic week of sunshine, staying home and staying healthy.

Denver Sister Cities was created by dozens then hundreds of individuals with unique and personal stories. Individuals whose hearts were captivated by a city and wanted to share that joy with their friends. Families who wanted to share in learning about the cultures of their friends and promote fun and peace throughout the globe. We love hearing your stories. Your stories remind us why we do what we do and they continue to inspire us.

Please enjoy the story of how one family fell in love with the city of Kunming, China and continue to enjoy the culture of Kunming here in Denver.



The Powers family has an extra special connection to our Sister City of Kunming, China

Brian and Jen Powers learned about the Denver Kunming Sister City relationship while adopting their daughter, Leela, in 2005 in Kunming, China (Yunnan Province).

They were at Daguan Park (one of many great parks in Kunming) and while negotiating the purchase a tapestry the vendor asked where they were from and they replied Denver, Colorado.



The vendor said "Oh, Sister City of Kunming" and led them around a corner to see Denver Park – in the middle of Kunming, China!

Unbeknownst to the Powers at the time, their hometown of Denver and Kunming had been Sister Cities since 1977.

There was even a placard and large flagstone rock, both donated from the city of Denver to the city of Kunming. It was at that moment they realized they had to research this relationship more when they returned home.



Once back in Denver, the Powers family found the [City of Kunming Park](#) and became contributing members to the Denver-Kunming Sister Cities committee. It was very important to them to embrace their daughter's culture and to find ways for Leela to stay connected to her heritage.



Photo: City of Kunming Park in Denver

In 2010-11 the Powers took their family back to Kunming, China to teach English for a full year and enroll their daughter in full-immersion Kindergarten.

This year in Kunming was filled with lots of traveling within Yunnan Province and building many connections with members of the Denver-Kunming community.



When the Powers Family returned to Denver in 2011 they were introduced to the new Denver Public School charter school, [Denver Language School \("DLS"\)](#) which offers full immersion Mandarin and Spanish programs. Their daughter Leela attended DLS from 1st through 8th grade and thrived with her Mandarin language skills and was enveloped with Chinese culture and teachers.

The Denver-Kunming Sister Cities relationship has provided many great friendships and opportunities for the Powers family. It has been a way for them to fully enjoy living in Denver, Colorado and also look forward to the future when they can return to Kunming.

Thank you so much to the Powers Family for sharing your story with us! We are so glad you joined Denver Sister Cities and are continuing to serve on the Kunming Committee.



Become a part of our community of friends who share love, appreciation, and respect for other cultures join us as a member of Denver Sister Cities here.

JOIN US!

We want to hear your story...

We would love to hear your story and how you first got connected to Denver Sister Cities. Share with us by emailing your story and pictures to: info@denversistercities.org

Have a great weekend!



Let's be friends!

Denver Sister Cities is honored to work locally to make Denver a place that is inclusive of all cultures and nationalities. We will continue to support our global community in the midst of our current challenges. Join us on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#).

Special thank you to our sponsors and partners!



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