



IAPA Au Pair of the Year Award 2004 Finalist



Au Pair

Name of au pair: Lenuta Tudora

Nationality of au pair: Romanian

Age of au pair: 23 years old

Start date of au pair placement: February 13, 2003

Finish date of au pair placement (if applicable)*: February 10, 2004

I confirm that I will be able to attend the IAPA 10th Annual Conference, 19-20 March 2004, in Cannes, France. If I am still placed with my host family during these dates I confirm that I have received the necessary permission from my host family to attend the Conference. (please tick).

Host Family

Name of host family: Carsky-Wilson

Address: United States

IAPA Member

Name of IAPA Member Agency (please circle: Sending/**Receiving**): goAUPAIR

Country: United States of America



IAPA Au Pair of the Year Award 2004 Finalist

Hello!

I'm Lenuta Tudora, 23 years old, and I am living now in Bacau, Romania.

I've just returned home 2 days ago from United States of America. I'm going to tell you some of the biggest things that happened to me when I was in this program because if I'm going to tell you everything, I could rather write a book.

From the beginning, I can tell with my hand on my heart that it was a fulfilling experience, and still it's an understatement! Not only that I have improved my English but I learned a lot of interesting things about America (in my trips through the country) understood and appreciated the society, I also learned a lot of things about myself. I definitely have another view of life. This experience convinced me that no matter what dreams you have for your life and no matter how far they are, if you set your mind to fulfill them and live up for your principles, YOU CAN DO IT! There is no limit.

I am also very grateful for my host family (Woody – father, Meg – mother, 2 boys – Lucas and Andrew) they helped me, sustained me, encouraged me and talked to me a lot. I do believe that we had a rewarding collaboration. All three of us discussed and took decisions regarding the boys. They treated me with respect, took my ideas into consideration, made me feel like a family member and this gave me confidence. We have a wonderful friendship. Of course, a big part of my feedback, I got it in boys. I've tried to give them all what was the best in me. By doing this, I consider that I did a part of my moral obligation like a human being for a better world. Today's children are tomorrow's future and working with them I helped building the future.

I've also learned a lot from my college experience. I took two classes (communications – public speaking and education – special needs). I was a little nervous at the beginning because I didn't know how I'm going to make it. After I've discussed with my teachers, combined with their positive attitude towards me, I got the second wind that was with me until the end.

Four days before my departure, I was to a party named "The Gathering of the Goddesses" (a part of my Christmas present from Meg). Socializing, meeting new people, all sorts of favors. It was fun. There was also a contest for a total makeover. From three hundred women, only eight were winners. Meg put my name in the box without me knowing (she told me after). The winners were Miss Metamorphosis and I was one of them. This was like a sign for me because living in the States for this past year, I already was Miss Metamorphosis!

Coming back to Romania, it is also very rewarding. I've decided to change my degree. I definitely have higher expectations and by saving my pocket money, I'm able now to pay for my own apartment.

Winning this contest, it is not important for me, because I'm already a winner. I do appreciate the fact that my host family and you appreciated my work.

I'm very grateful for what I've accomplished and what I've become. I consider myself blessed. I think to God and to all my friends that were next to me when I needed them most.

I cannot say that it's like I'm born again because I don't want to deny how I've lived before trying this program, but I can say that I've learned to live a life.

In the end, I want to thank you for your interest in hearing my thoughts.

Lenuta Tudora