



*IAPA Au Pair of the Year Award
2004*



NOMINATION FORM

Host Family

Name of host family member submitting nomination: Meg Carsky-Wilson (mother)

Name/s and age/s of other family members: Lucas Carsky-Wilson (4.5 years), Andrew Carsky-Wilson (2 years)
Woodrow Carsky-Wilson (father).....

.....
Address: United States

IAPA Member

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

Country: United States

Au Pair

Name of au pair: **Lenuta Tudora**

Nationality of au pair: **Romanian**

Age of au pair: 23.....

Start date of au pair: 13 Feb 03

Finish date of au pair (if applicable): 10 Feb 04.....



IAPA Au Pair of the Year Award 2004



NOMINATION FORM

Lenuta has shown herself to be flexible, capable and extremely hard-working. While my husband was activated for Active Duty with the US Army, she came to our house to care for our two children who had always been cared for during the day by their father. My older son Lucas was spoiled in some ways – he was very passive, and used to having things done for him. Lenuta brought structure, discipline and expectations for Lucas. She survived a lot of resistance and misbehaviour on his part, and has helped him grow to be a much more self-sufficient, capable, helpful and pleasant child. Andrew, on the other hand, had been somewhat neglected due to the great demands placed on us by his older brother. Lenuta gave lots of attention to Andrew, who was just over a year old when she arrived, and has helped him to blossom into an articulate, fun loving, happy, playful, and social child.

Without my asking, Lenuta has also contributed a lot to keeping the household clean and neat. Soon after her arrival, she had designed a schedule for herself, devoting different days of the week for sweeping and vacuuming, a day for trash collection and recycling, a day for some extra in-depth cleaning project (scrubbing woodwork, or cleaning the kitchen cabinets for example), etc. She also cooks and prepares meals for the boys, ensuring they are fed on a regular schedule (which doesn't always happen when Mom and Dad are in charge!), which makes them happier children.

Lenuta's command of the English language is exceptional. She has a very pleasant and easy to understand accent, and her conversational ability, as well as reading and writing skill, has surprised me from day one. We have enjoyed discussions ranging from politics and religion, to popular culture, and she has an interest in learning about a variety of different cultures, music, beliefs, etc. She has been very easy to live with, and considerate of our beliefs and preferences, even when they differ significantly from her own.

I've particularly appreciated that Lenuta has helped me to improve my parenting skills. She arrived with a wealth of childcare experience that she has shared at appropriate times. She has worked closely with me to help identify the best approach to solve behavioural problems the children have had, and has worked with me to ensure that we treat the children consistently. She often has good ideas for solving child-rearing challenges that I would never have considered, based on her previous experience and intuition.

I have appreciated her candour, helpfulness, and willingness to pitch in on all occasions. While being away from her country and all that was familiar has been an extreme hardship for her, she has not let it affect her ability to provide top-notch childcare to my boys. Even when she has no doubt felt extreme homesickness, watching them do some silly thing still puts a big smile on her face. Working with children is clearly her interest and passion. She doesn't just love children because they're cute, but sees them as the world's future and treats them that way, helping them to become responsible and thoughtful individuals.

Lenuta has accomplished a lot in her life. Despite losing her parents as a teenager, she was able to complete high school, take several university courses, maintain her own apartment and work at a very demanding job prior to applying for the au pair program. Although she had never been outside of Romania, let alone Europe, she was excited and courageous enough to go through the rigorous application and visa application process required to come to America, without the parental support and encouragement many enjoy.

She's been an exceptional au pair, and deserves to be recognised for all of her accomplishments. I hope you will carefully consider my recommendation.