



*IAPA Au Pair of the Year Award
2006*

NOMINATION FORM

Host Family

Name of host family member submitting nomination: Heidi Davis

Name/s and age/s of other family members: Dad - Tim Davis 41, Will aged 10, Oliver aged 8 and Isobel aged 5

Address: United Kingdom

IAPA Member

Name of IAPA Member Agency (please circle: Sending/**Receiving**): A2Z.....

Country: United Kingdom

Au Pair

Name of au pair: Alexandru Valentin Darziu

Nationality of au pair: Romanian

Age of au pair: 25.....

Start date of au pair: 17th March 2004

Finish date of au pair (if applicable): 2nd March 2006.....



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The characteristics that make our au pair exceptional, and why he should be considered for the 2006 “IAPA Au Pair of the Year” award.

His CV said amongst other things that he was a tattoo artist and body piercer. He lived in the city and his world couldn't have been more different to our remote country life. The photos he sent us showed a man with short spiky hair, tattoos, a broad smile, at ease with his friends and with his beloved pit bulldog Spike. A few telephone conversations later we offered him an opportunity to be a part of our family and now almost two years later we are to say farewell and our three children are already talking about going to Romania to see who they regard as their big brother.

So what makes him exceptional - we had a tall order - we hoped for someone who was trustworthy, honest, reliable, had a positive attitude, a sense of adventure and fun yet could manage and respond to the diverse needs of our children, commanding their respect, being fair and consistent and yet juggle cooking, caring for our menagerie of animals – horses, dogs, poultry, rabbit and guinea pig, listen to music practice, maths practice, watch swimming lessons, have friends to play and ensuring the children were where they should be with the right paraphernalia. Alex managed all this with enthusiasm and ease.

He has become a role model for our boys encouraging interests some of which we could never have cultivated. He has shared with us his computer and technological knowledge and above all opened our eyes to art and music which is his passion. This was no mean feat!

He mastered the English language with incredible ease both written and verbal and even our ironic British humour.

He went beyond the call of duty giving of his time freely examples of this are endless but I can identify particular instances which illustrate this well - he ran a popular face painting stall at the children's school Fair witnessed by a reporter in the local press; he offered to stand in as Father Christmas in the school "Santa's grotto"; when it came to the Village fete he put his artistic talent to good use and designed and painted the leading and winning float for 25 local children with the theme of Tolkein's Lord of the Rings; my mother's third wedding at our home for which he designed all the stationary and helped set up the marquee and then prepared for and shared this special day with us; for my husband's 40th birthday he was instrumental in preparing for a huge party of 60 adults and 40 children in a marquee in the garden with the majority camping he oversaw the bar and rallied his friends and we all had a fun and memorable weekend.

On a more serious note one of our sons is dyslexic; his support for our son has been invaluable and perceptive.

So he became a close family member who as we grew in each others confidences shared concerns and issues that touched each of our lives. Yet still maintaining a respect for each others privacy we explored and discussed issues from our own viewpoints leading to interesting debate and reflection.

For himself he has used his time to develop his artistic interest and after entering our local "Art on the Railings" competition then a renowned Art festival and displaying his work he went on to cultivate contacts and was offered his first opportunity to exhibit his work successfully in the UK. This brought him into contact with printers and framers which has enabled him to develop skills relating to his



passionate interest in art. The confidence from this has enabled him to develop his own web site which he recently launched.



We have also noticed that Alex has been a supportive and good friend to other au pairs in the area which has enabled them to settle and enjoy their au pair experience.

We will be having a big party with all our friends and family to say farewell and thank you! We have all enjoyed a rich diverse cultural experience from Alex's stay he has been incredibly supportive which has been mutually beneficial enriching each of our lives. Romania is now our holiday destination and the UK is his!!