

My Au Pair experience has been an incredible part of my life. I really have the time of my life every day with my host family, and we have so much fun together by simply standing in the kitchen and talking to each other! With all the struggles we deal with in my host family's everyday lives (with three wonderful kids with special needs, there is always something going on), I never feel like it is too much to handle because I know my host family always has my back. Our slogan is: *Grow through what you go through!*

My (15 y.o.) host child had a severe eating disorder with OCD, and after one year of working with her, she got so much better. I couldn't be prouder of her. She just celebrated her 16th birthday with a bunch of friends and is planning to go on a school trip to Philadelphia - all on her own!

After the first year, I couldn't think of leaving these amazing people, so I decided to take the "open" job as J.P's (12 y.o.) attendant. He has a rare genetic condition, and as an Occupational Therapist, I do everything I can to help him live his life as independently as possible, and so he can finally be in with other kids.

I think every Au Pair can tell you, that living with a family in another country will change you, but I never quite believed that. I can truly see that I have changed in so many ways! I am more open, more honest, and friendlier. Yes, I am happier then I was back in Germany, and I cannot even describe how thankful I am to be a better version of myself because of this family I am able to live with.

I have even had the opportunity to work as a volunteer in different locations for our community. I met nice people with interesting background stories which were not all too great, and that made me appreciate the life I have even more. My favorite volunteer experience was at 'Top Soccer' (soccer for kids with disabilities) where J.P is able to participate in the games and where he can socialize with other kids.

All of my dreams came true by meeting this amazing family through the Au Pair program!