

EurAuPair Au Pairs Lend a Helping Hand

In November, several au pair groups across the country got together in order to help others in need. EurAuPair sends a big thank you to Community Counselors Dawn Rothermel and Heidi Silverstone for organizing and writing about these meetings. It is nice to see people lending a helping hand!



Top row, left to right: Kelly (France), Anna (Germany), Ana Carolina (Brazil), Laia (Spain), Heidi Silverstone (Community Counselor), Thais (Brazil), Mathilde (France) and Patricia (Brazil)

Bottom row, left to right: Eva, Elodie, Manon, Pauline, Naike, au pair friend, Lucile, Lucile, Pauline, Juliette (all from France), Lisa, Laureen and Chiara (all three from Germany)

Hurricane Relief

After Hurricane Sandy, a group of New York au pairs and their community counselor came together to help others. Even though most of them did not have electricity for several days, they were in good spirits and donated either: batteries, toiletries, diapers, garbage bags, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, winter coats or food. Their generosity helped those affected in Rockaway, NY.

Chicago Sandwich Run

When one thinks about the month of November, Thanksgiving is usually what comes to mind. Not the other holiday, which is of no less importance – Veterans Day. Americans typically celebrate Veterans twice a year – on Memorial Day in May and Veterans Day in November – although they should certainly be celebrated every day for the freedom they allow us to enjoy.

But there is a former Marine, Jim Proffitt, who lives in Lombard, IL who not only thinks of Veterans every day; he puts those thoughts into action. He, his wife and his son, along with various volunteers, come together every Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 noon to 2:00 pm to put together a brown bag meal for the Chicago homeless, many of whom are Veterans. This effort is called The Chicago Homeless Sandwich Run (chicagosandwichrun.org).



Chicago Au Pairs, Community Counselor and Area Coordinator as well as a German Exchange Student with World Heritage are helping make sandwiches.

On Saturday, the brown lunch bags are prepared with a 'salty' snack, a 'sweet' snack and a juice box. On Sunday, the volunteers form an assembly line to make sandwiches. Two sandwiches go in each brown bag, a total of 1,100 sandwiches are made!!

On Sunday, November 18th, Community Counselor Dawn Rothermel's au pairs joined the Proffitt's, along with Area Coordinator Vivi Frumkin, Mitch Frumkin and an exchange student from Germany, to make sandwiches and stuff the brown lunch bags. The au pairs were also tasked with

making the three party-sized thermoses of kool-aid, which go along with three party-sized thermoses of coffee. All are then loaded into their respective cubbies on the truck awaiting delivery to the Chicago homeless. The au pairs were able to step inside the truck, get a tour and learn how the brown lunch bags are handed out to the homeless. Everybody found those couple of hours to be both a very rewarding and humbling experience.

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About Us...

EurAuPair Intercultural Child Care Programs is a non-profit, public benefit organization designated by the U.S. Department of State to conduct the Au Pair cultural exchange program under the Fulbright Hays Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 and is intended "to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries by means of educational and cultural exchanges".

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EurAupair Photos

Community Counselor Jessica Simon from Eagle, CO organized a pumpkin carving party for her au pairs, with Goblin Punch (please see recipe below), baked mummies and pumpkin cookies. The girls had a blast - only one of them having carved pumpkins before!!



In the picture: Kristina (Germany), Stephanie (Germany), Fernanda (Brazil), Lara (France) and Line (Denmark)

Goblin Punch Recipe

2 cans Limeade: Defrost before mixing with the rest of the ingredients.

1 bottle (2 liters) of Sprite

3 ½ cups of green Gatorade

5 drops of green food coloring

1 lb of dry ice broken into pieces to create the fog. Enjoy!!



New Jersey Community Counselor Marita Falconer captured German au pairs Annika, Kimmi, Sarah, Franzi and Ruya on the Hoboken waterfront just before sunset in September. The happiness in this shot is contagious!

St. Louis Community Counselors Dee McMillion and Julie Blow visited the St. Louis Chocolate Factory together with their group of au pairs. It was a tour of the facilities and everybody had free samples at the end. Delicious and fun!!



Top row, from left to right: Sabrina (Germany), Community Counselor Julie Blow, Sabrina (Germany) and Alina (Germany)

Bottom row: Community Counselor Dee McMillion with her daughter and Maren (Germany)



Au pairs Melinda (left) and Tanja (right) – both living with host families in Wisconsin – enjoyed their first corn maze, which Community Counselor Cindy Nelson-Singh introduced them to.



In the picture is the Allen family from Alpharetta, GA waiting for their new au pair, Alina from Moldova, to arrive at the airport. What a wonderful welcome with sign and balloons!



On a beautiful Sunday in October, the Chicagoland au pairs gathered at the Wheaton Park District to enjoy some ghoulish company and tasty treats. The First Annual Halloween Costume Party was a success, as every au pair attending was in costume. Prizes were given for the top 3 costumes, as were voted on by the au pairs. Which costume is your favorite?

Featuring Community Counselor Dawn Rothermel

By Area Coordinator Vivi Frumkin



Dawn at the CardinalsCare 2012 race, wearing her special racing shirt to honor her sister Donna

Dawn Rothermel has been a EurAupair Community Counselor in Chicago for the past 10 years. Over the course of years, life has been challenging for Dawn at times: hosting au pairs, counseling au pairs, raising two boys, working full-time, managing a house and trying to stay positive and afloat amid a long divorce. In January 2007, Dawn had her “a-ha” moment: she woke up one day and decided she did not want to feel like she was anymore, or ever again, and so she changed – just like that!

Never having run before, Dawn soon became a running nut – at the young age of 43! Starting slowly at first, as the days, weeks and months passed by, soon Dawn was logging 25 to

30 miles of running every week.

By 2012, a friend introduced Dawn to a twist to running: racing 5ks (3.1 miles). Hesitant at first, it took Dawn until April to log her first race and she has not looked back since. For her inaugural racing season, Dawn is at 21 races, all 5ks, with the exception of one race, a very special one at that.

In January 2012 Dawn lost her younger sister, Donna, unexpectedly and suddenly to cervical cancer. Donna was a resident of St. Louis, MO, a life-long Cardinals baseball fan who absolutely loved children. To help the grieving process, Dawn took her love of running/racing and Donna’s love

of St. Louis, the Cardinals and children, and raced in the CardinalsCare 2012 6k (3.72 miles). It began at the Stan Musial statue outside Busch Stadium and finished at the left field corner on the warning track inside the Stadium. It was an awesome day, an awesome event and beautiful memory, including the racing shirt Dawn especially made to honor her sister. As Dawn’s racing career expands, perhaps one day, the EurAupair Community will be able to cheer her on at the Chicago Marathon!

EurAupair would like to thank Dawn for being such a wonderful and enthusiastic Community Counselor and for always submitting fun photos and articles to the Gazette. Thank you!!

Chicago Sail Boat Tour

By Vivi Frumkin, Area Coordinator in Chicago, IL

“The Life of a Tall Ship Sailor” was the name of the boat tour Chicagoland Au Pairs and Community Counselors took in August 2012.

The ship sailed from

Navy Pier out onto Lake Michigan. During the 90 minutes of sailing, the crew talked about life of the Great Lakes sailors, who braved changing winds, stormy seas and even pirates. We got a good impression of what it

took to be a sailor on a Tall Ship.

Even though it was gray and rainy that day, we still enjoyed wonderful views of the Chicago skyline and nobody got seasick!!

Thank you, Vivi, for organizing and writing about the sail boat tour. We love the photo!



The Chicago group of Au Pairs, Community Counselors and Area Coordinator, ready to embark the Tall Ship.

Historic Springfield, Illinois

By Community Counselor Dawn Rothermel



From left to right: Au pairs Inna Gutnik (Germany), Jasmina Biller (Germany), Anne Schmetzer (previous au pair visiting again from Germany) and Inga Warrelmann (Germany) in front of the Old State Capitol

Illinois offers more than just Chicago! On August 26th, Community Counselor Dawn piled her au pairs into the car at 7 am and headed south to central Illinois for a guided tour of Springfield, the state capital.

It was a full afternoon as the visit started with the Dana Thomas House (a Frank Lloyd Wright gem), then over to the Abraham Lincoln Homestead. A 30-minute film prior to touring Abraham Lincoln's actual home gave the au pairs some insight into President Lincoln's life.

The group then headed a few mere blocks away downtown to visit the Old State Capitol, walk through the halls and sit in the legislative chambers. Following the Old State Capitol was a tour through the existing State Capitol, seeing the Governor's Office, the House and Senate and the beautiful crystal chandeliers. There was a drive by the Governor's Mansion on the way to a quick stop at the Illinois State Museum. Finally, last stop on the tour was a visit to Lincoln's Tomb. By 5 pm, the tours were done and the au pairs headed home. A long day, but an informative one!

Game Night

By Lauren Marston,
Community Counselor
in Bentonville, AR

For the November monthly meeting, Community Counselor Lauren Marston and her group of au pairs went to an entertainment center to play laser tag. The black light course was in a two-story complex and they played in two teams against each other. After the laser tag, au pairs and Lauren went on to play bowling. Especially nice was that because of Ladies Night it was completely free for the girls to bowl. Everybody had a blast during this "girls' night out"!

Thank you, Lauren, for sharing your monthly meeting with us. Sounds and looks like you all had a lot of fun!



Community Counselor Lauren and her au pairs show their "game face" right before starting the laser tag course.

Bottom row: Pauline Ficheux (France)

Top row, left to right: Sabine Lurken (Germany), Sarah Gutoehrlein (Germany), Abel (friend of au pair), Andrea Walker Ricaurte (Colombia), Lauren Marston (Community Counselor)