

Spotlight on Community Counselor Kelley Land

By Mid Atlantic Area Coordinator Holly Brown

Our EurAupair Community Counselors – CCs – are our most valuable asset. Day in and day out they provide encouragement, support and mentoring to their au pairs and host families. Counselor, advocate, mentor, and friend are just some of the roles they fill. They are our local marketing experts, too. Our program relies heavily on them for ensuring our au pairs and host families have a successful and rewarding year together. We are very fortunate to have hundreds of wonderful Community Counselors on our team. In this edition, we are pleased to share one of our finest Community Counselors with you.

Kelley Land has been a Community Counselor in the Washington, D.C. area since 2010. She and her partner Jerome Alfred have been hosting au pairs since 2008 with EurAupair, shortly after the arrival of their twins. Kelley loves being a host mom. When speaking about her experience she says: “We have been so, so lucky to welcome the absolute best au pairs in the world



Kelley (second to left) and her Au Pairs bowling in February 2015.

to love our most awesome kids.” Two years into hosting, EurAupair contacted Kelley and asked her if she would consider sharing her enthusiasm and love for her au pairs to a few more, as their Community Counselor? Kelley jumped at the opportunity and the rest is history, so to speak. She currently serves, not just as CC, but as a friend to 12 au pairs. She successfully balances the line of being an advocate to both her au pairs and her host families. A feat that is not as easy as it sounds, but Kelley is flawless at the skill.

Kelley is also extremely skillful at sharing the EurAupair program with others, particularly within the Moms of Multiples community she is also



Kelley, Jerome and one of their beloved Au Pairs, Sarah.

very active in. Many families have joined EurAupair, because Kelley helped guide them into finding the right child care fit for their family. Kelley has found that families looking for child care want personal recommendations. Being able to speak to them about her rewarding, first hand experiences being a host mom has been the key. She speaks about the program and how it has worked for her family, she doesn't try to sell them, merely inform, so they can determine if having an au pair is a fit for them.

EurAupair is extremely lucky to have Kelley Land, as not only a host mom and Community Counselor, but as our MVP!

Thank you so much, Kelley, for being a wonderful host mom and Community Counselor – we are so happy to have you ‘on board’. And thank you, Holly, for putting the spotlight on Kelley.



Kelley (far left) attending a networking event for EurAupair in 2010.



Kelley (bottom right) and her Au Pairs attending a Potomac Nationals game in September 2014.

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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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Au Pair Disco Boat Tour

By Seattle, WA Community Counselor Natalie Kratzer-Gushwa

Summer is here! What better place to enjoy it than on a 'Disco Boat'?

Waterfront in Seattle, WA, Sunday evening on June 14th, 2015 - that was the place and time to be! Approximately 150 au pairs were lining up to launch the boat at 6:30 pm from Pier 57. As we walked towards the boat, we were

already greeted by loud music and fun disco lights.

The captain greeted every one of us with a nice 'welcome aboard and enjoy'. And so we did! Sitting on the upper deck in the front of the boat, meeting lots of new people, different cultures and just having a good time; that was pretty much all we did. Not to

forget the dance floor on the lower deck!! How could we ever forget the bouncing of the boat from all the dancing and jumping girls!!!!

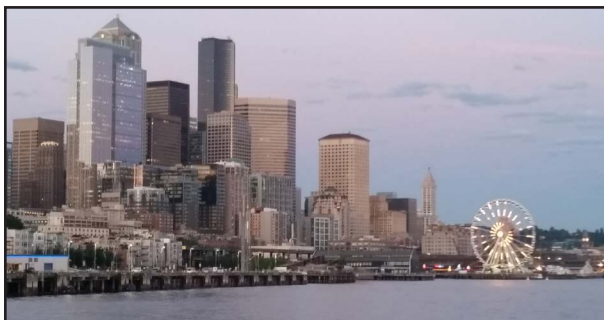
So many different languages, reaching from English over German, French, Afrikaans, Australian, Portuguese, Spanish and Austrian is all you heard.

What a blast everyone had!

Snacks and soda were for free. Three hours was way too short, we all thought, but worth it anyway!

I hope every au pair has a nice summer memory to bring home to their country and tell everyone about it!!

Thank you very much, Natalie. The Au Pair Disco Boat Tour sounds like the perfect summer get-together.



The beautiful Seattle waterfront!



In the picture: Nastelle from South Africa (left), Community Counselor Natalie (center), Caroline from France (right).

Race for Cure

By Washington, D.C. Area Coordinator Rebecca LaChanse

Community Counselor Linda Jimenez, a 17 year breast cancer survivor, and Area Coordinator Holly Brown, headed up their team of 19 au pairs as "CureLeader Volunteers" for the Susan G. Komen Race For Cure event in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 9th, 2015.

The group cheered all the race and walk participants, providing support and encouragement. The au pairs gave walkers high-fives, thanked them and pulled some in

to dance! The group's spirits were high. Everyone had a great time!

It was an honor and privilege for EurAupair to participate in this extraordinary event. We have been invited to return next year. Let's go Eurapair! "2-4-6-8 who do we appreciate: EURAUPAIR!"

A big Thank You goes to Rebecca, Linda and Holly for organizing this meeting. Thank you as well to all au pairs for supporting and encouraging the race participants.



The enthusiastic team of Au Pairs, Community Counselors and Area Coordinators.

Angel's Baseball Game

By Orange County, CA Community Counselor Nancy Szulga



The Orange County Au Pairs look so cute in their Angel's outfits.

As a special request from one of my au pairs, Lena from Germany, she wanted me to have a baseball game meeting before she left in August. So we did this for our July meeting choosing a nighttime game. There were 13 of us, 8 girls in my group, one visiting from Germany, one belonging to another program whose family asked if she could hang with our group, and of course my family.

A night game was chosen because of the heat, but especially because it was Hawaiian T-shirt night, so all the girls got a shirt souvenir. They were actually cute, way too large, but a great way to remember the night. Most if not all of the girls knew nothing about baseball

with one asking if it's like tennis. We had to chuckle and my husband dove in to an explanation of the game. The girls learned the basics: hit, run and you're out! However, the jumbotron TVs were the hit. The Angel's mascot - the Rally Monkey, dance cams and the kiss cams were quite entertaining and at 7th inning stretch the entire group stood and sang "Take me out to the Ball Game" and meant it. What a great all American night topped off with fireworks.

Thank you so much, Nancy, for introducing your au pairs to this very American sport and sharing this fun monthly meeting with the Gazette!

Let's Dance!

By Community Counselor Gila Peller from Chicago, IL

In April, the au pairs in Gila Peller's group dusted off their imaginary dance shoes and headed off to Highland Park High School to watch five Chicagoland dance companies celebrate the Arts with Highland Park High School dancers. Performing in this free event were Highland Park High School, Collage, Thodos Dance Chicago, Giordano Dance Chicago, Chicago Repertory Ballet, and Hubbard Street 2.

This cultural meeting was

chosen, so the girls can see a different perspective of dance. The mission of "FOCUS" is to increase the appreciation and understanding of the Arts and of the art professionals through more than 250 workshops, performances, and lectures, all free of charge. They educate and entertain people of multicultural and diverse backgrounds, regardless of language. Besides, isn't dance the universal language?

The girls were foot tapping



From right to left: Laura (Germany), Elzet (South Africa), Nathalie (Germany), Jackie (Mexico), Anna (Germany), her friend Heide.

and whistling all night. It was a blast!
Thank you so much, Gila, for always thinking of fun monthly

get-togethers and for writing about them, too!

My Time with My American Family!

By German Au Pair Mareike Kempf, hosted by the Dubovoy Family from Lindenhurst, NY

To start off, I was a "rescue" and then Alex and Julie took me into their family. For the past nine months, I am now in a lovely family from Long Island and I'm starting to feel sad that I'm leaving them in a couple of days.

Back in Germany, I wished to have an awesome time in America, but things did not work out with my first family. I just wanted to go home, especially so close to Christmas.



Mareike's personal Christmas stocking.

In this not so nice time, Alex asked me if I want to become a part of his family and take care of his handsome boys (E, 7 and D, 5) and beautiful little princess (Em, 1).

I didn't think that I would feel so welcome and at home after such a short time. I was happy again! We spent three weeks together, before Christmas was there. I still had some thoughts about just going home and leaving everything behind, because I missed my own family badly.

They welcomed me into the family, but I still didn't know them.

I was a stranger in a

new home, with completely different surroundings than before. We had to get used to each other and I had to find my place with the kids and the kids had to find their place with me. Everything was new and unknown. So the thoughts about the upcoming Christmas were scary and didn't bring the usual Christmas feelings inside me.

The day before Christmas I got an early Christmas present, which melted my heart and washed all the reservation away. I felt at home! I felt like a family member, a friend, a big sister and as a part of them. The present was nothing big, but at that moment for me, it meant the world. I also got my own Christmas stocking with my name embroidered on it. This present broke the ice and I just jumped completely into my new life. I never thought about going home earlier again.

I still had my up and downs, but who doesn't... I had (still have) a wonderful time with my kids and with Alex and Julie, too. They always treat me as an equal and we speak about everything.

One day, in March, the children and I were waiting outside, for E's bus to pick him up for school. D was standing right next to me balancing on the stones we have in our front yard. He was holding my hand, so he



Mareike and her adorable host siblings.



The Dubovoy Family at a baseball game.

could jump from one to the other. E was standing on the other side of me holding my hand on his chest. D just stopped at one moment looked at me and said

"You know Mimi, you are like a big brother! But you are not a boy. So... more like a big sister!"

A couple weeks later, I was talking to Alex, when E ran into the room asking his Dad if he could tell a family secret, one which not a lot of people know, to a friend of E's. Alex was asking E (joking, because he just told the story to me) "What is with Mimi, you just told her!" I will never forget E's answer: "Mimi doesn't count, she is family! She is allowed to know."

These are the moments I am going to miss really badly or the

smiles, the unexpected hugs, kisses and all the time we spend together will be unforgettable. Or the moments when I walk around the corner and Em starts smiling and crawling toward me, so I can pick her up. The lovely bite-marks she gave me, because her teeth were bothering her.

I didn't think that all the bad memories I had at the beginning of my year would be forgotten so fast and replaced with memories I never want to forget! They just have to all fit in my suitcase!!

Mareike, it sounds like you found a wonderful host family in the United States – thank you for taking the time to share your memories with us.

EurAupair Photos



Baby Leon from San Diego, CA graduated from his American baby sign language class. His Au Pair Tina Lisa from Germany is very proud of him. Congrats!



Danish Au Pair Tanja had a wonderful year with her Host Family, the Currier's in Martinez, GA. Thanks for the fun photo!



We love these super cute photos of Au Pair Camille (France) with her host sister Veronica.



Au Pairs Xia from China and Nataly from Colombia enjoyed a beautiful day at the Indianapolis Museum of Art and Gardens with their Community Counselors Darcy and Brooke.



Team EurAupair supported the Ronald McDonald House participating in the 5-k Walk for Kids in Anaheim, CA in April! Go EurAupair!!



Au Pairs Tina Lisa (from Germany, left) and Rachel (from France, clown costume) with Community Counselor Lisa in the strong man costume. They were at the RH Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Good times!

American Experience: Bear Accident

By German Au Pairs Kristin Wuerges and Juliane Brehm who are hosted by the Edwards and Borys Families from Alto, MI

On a Sunday morning in July, we left the cottage from

Kristin's host parents early. The cottage is in northern Michigan at

Higgins Lake. Each of us was driving our own vehicle as we had arrived at the cottage at separate times. We just drove about ten minutes and were near Houghton Lake. All of a sudden a black bear appeared on US127. He tried to cross the street running. He bumped into Kristin's car and pushed her all the way to the shoulder. When the car stopped he flew back on the street and Juliane hit him, because she drove behind Kristin.

moving and tried to get up. Everybody yelled we have to go back into our cars. Juliane's car was totally broken, so she came into Kristin's car. A few minutes later the police came. Unfortunately, the bear had to be put down as he was too badly injured. Also, Kristin's host mom came and talked with the police. The police man said it was the biggest bear he had ever seen.



Juliane and Kristin after the scary accident.

We both were shocked and didn't really know what to do. Juliane called the police while Kristin called her host mom (who was still at the cottage). Both were like, you hit a BEAR? While we both were on our phones calling, the bear started

It was a new experience for both us which we both never expected!

Thank you, Juliane and Kristin, for sharing this story with us. We are very happy that nothing happened to you!