

# eur AuPair GAZETTE

## Intercultural Child Care Programs

A Publication for EurAuPair Program Participants and Friends Around the World!

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### Time Flies

By Au Pair from Brazil, Maria Luisa in Newport, NY with the Simmons Family

Telling a little bit about my experience since I got here in January of 2020, it has been an amazing journey, also hard but for sure the most unique experience I've had in my life. The Au Pair program definitely made me somehow a different person than the girl who took an airplane in Brazil last year.



*Maria Luisa with her host sister Catherine (5)*

There are so many challenges during the process, it's a different culture, the weather for sure was something challenging, and we also had the pandemic which made the first months harder than I had planned.

Last year when we got the pandemic, I stayed most of the days with both of the girls at home and that made me find a creative side that I didn't even know I had, we played all the games possible and with lots of help from my host mom and her mom we created a system so that every week the girls were learning something. Every week we had different theme and we developed crafts, watched videos about it, drew about it, and that

was really fun and I could learn with them too. In summer we had lots of swimming lessons, picnics, basketball practice and lots of fun at the garden. Then, in the fall the kids went back to school and our routine became mostly like it was before the beginning of the pandemic.

One of the most amazing ideas for our exchange program is to enjoy trips and visit different places and I think that most of the girls like me plan a lot of trips, meeting new people, more culture and even living with the pandemic last year I was able to have all of these experiences.

I feel myself lucky for having a great host family to support me during this experience, even having different culture I had people that I can truly say are my family and making this time I'm spending here way better than I could expect.



*Maria Luisa with her host sister Sammi (7)*

The Au Pair world is something really different than anything I have ever experienced, I made friends, went to places I have never thought going, I found new friends that I wasn't expecting.

I feel like the program helped me find myself a stronger person, getting out of my comfort zone made me see life so much different, definitely find my best version, now I can give the real importance to things that really matter to me.



*Maria Luisa with Catherine and Sammi*

I still have 9 months of the exchange program but I'm already missing all this life I built here, definitely missing my two little girls that became the loves of my life, missing my American family that always took care of me.

I only have one advice for the girls that are already here, enjoy as much as you can because time flies and for the girls that will become Au Pairs, this will be the best experience you will ever live.

*Thank you for sharing your experience with us Maria Luisa! We wish you many more happy moments with your Host Family!*

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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".

If you would like to contribute to the EurAuPair Gazette, please email [info@euraupair.com](mailto:info@euraupair.com). We would love to hear from our Host Families, Au Pairs, Community Counselors, Area Coordinators and Partners.

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## EurAupair Photos Monthly Activities



Community Counselor Rose Backlin from Kirbyville, MO met with her Au Pairs at a Cat Café where cats from the local shelter are available for adoption or just for cuddling.

From back to front: Au Pairs Charne and Elisa from South Africa



Community Counselor Krista Tackett from Columbus, OH took her Au Pairs canoeing at Trapper John's Canoe Livery in Grove City, Ohio.

From left to right: Au Pairs Dorianne from South Africa, Caroleigh from Namibia and Valeska from Brazil



Community Counselor Pamela Porvaznik from Wichita, KS took her Au Pairs horseback riding. In the picture, Simone from South Africa



Community Counselor Cherelle Washington from Alexandria, VA took her Au Pairs to visit the National Museum of Women in the Arts in DC, where they explored different art from women throughout the United States.

From top to bottom: Au Pairs Lexy from South Africa, Eider from Spain, Camila from Venezuela, Laura (visiting Au Pair), and CC Cherelle



Community Counselor Krista Tackett from Columbus, OH took her group of Au Pairs for their Cultural Event to paint.

On the left, you can see Au Pair Jojo from Mexico and on the right, the painting she did. Great job!

Community Counselor Alexandra Boutiette (left) from Scott AFB, IL with German Au Pair Luisa (right) did the St. Louis Arch and a Mississippi boat tour.



## EurAupair Photos Monthly Activities



Community Counselors Dawn Rothermel from Round Lake, IL and Gila Peller from Northbrook, IL took their Au Pairs to the Chicago Botanical Gardens to celebrate the beginning of the spring. The Au Pairs had a great time taking pictures amongst the waterfalls, beautiful tulips and daffodils.

From left to right: Au Pairs Genesis from Venezuela, Kayla from South Africa, Maria from Venezuela, Joanne from France, Karla and Silvia from Mexico



Au Pair from Venezuela Juliet with her host siblings Jaxson (8) and Riley (7) at Old Orchard Beach, ME area.



Community Counselor Ashley Castaneda from Wahiawa, HI took her Au Pairs to Pearl Harbor to learn about its history along with how much of an impact it was for the Hawaiian Island.

From left to right: CC Ashley, her husband and son, Au Pairs Emily from South Africa and Bianca from Namibia



Au Pair from South Africa, Menandi, doesn't seem to mind her face being "decorated" by her two host siblings, Hayes (top) and Grace (right)



Community Counselor Pam Porvaznik from Wichita, KS took her Au Pairs blackberry picking at Elderslie Farms in Kechi, KS over the Fourth of July week-end.

From left to right: Au Pair from South Africa Simone, CC Pam, Pam's friend, Jennifer and Au Pair Laura from Colombia



Community Counselor Fabienne Cavaliere from Sherrills Ford, NC took her Au Pairs on a hiking trip up to Crowders Mountain at Crowders Mountain State Park for their monthly meeting.

From left to right: Au Pairs Wendy from Colombia, Laura from Germany and Paola from Mexico

# Being an Au Pair during the Pandemic

By Au Pair from South Africa, Zinia Greene in Holland, PA with the Licker/Mackaronis Family

My journey of how I became an Au Pair can be explained by the following statement: COVID-19 has by far been the most significant occurrence in my life. I know, it sounds strange just typing that sentence!

Before I get into my story let me introduce myself: my name is Zinia Greene, I'm 23 years old, I studied Economics and International Trade at the North West University in Potchefstroom and I grew up in Polokwane, the capital city in Limpopo, South Africa. I am currently Au Pairing in Holland, Pennsylvania, USA and have the privilege of living with a wonderful family looking after their beautiful little girl.

After South Africa's strict lock-down was lifted from Level 5 to Level 4, only essential workers were allowed to go back to work, this created a big problem of parents having kids at home without any supervision. A close family friend called me and asked if it would be possible for me to look after her two daughters and this is where my journey started. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that there would grow a passion in me, assisting and teaching children in their daily activities from studying to playing.

There were many fears on the horizon like explaining daily to the kids why nothing is normal now. Why they can't go out to play with friends, why they can't participate in their normal after-hours activities that they enjoyed so much. It is an irrational time we live in that is unfair to all human beings. With that being said, I am definitely concerned about how the coronavirus is harming the wellbeing – both physically and mentally of young people.

Mid 2020, most people had almost completely adapted to the new living conditions and that is when I realized that I actually enjoy and love what I am doing. Taking responsibility in caring after the well-being of two wonderful little girls, helping them to adapt to the new and changing world around us. Helping them ease their anxiety and understand that it is acceptable to be frustrated.

When I realized that I love working with kids and I started my Au Pair journey by applying through Carla's Au Pair, EurAupair's partner in South Africa. COVID-19 was constantly on my mind with little hope that this new dream of mine will become a reality. But the dream was definitely bigger than any virus. There certainly were a few obstacles standing in my way for example the travel bans and the South African Embassy closing but I had faith that everything would work out.



Zinia with her host sister Stella (6)

One thing I learned while traveling during COVID is that social distancing does not form part of all countries COVID-19 vocabulary. My first flight to Doha was more packed than a sardine can! Embarking and debarking from the various flights to my final destination were chaotic and rules were not followed or enforced. Then again, the long flights and wearing your face mask the entire time could have had an influence where everybody just wanted to get out as soon as possible.

I have to say seeing my host family absolutely made the

chaotic traveling totally worth it! Saying that my expectations were met is not enough! In my opinion, I definitely got the best host family out there. They made me feel welcomed and comfortable from the moment I met them! It already feels like home.

Thinking back from my application and taking the big unknown step onto the Boeing 747 was one exciting roller coaster ride. Nevertheless,

EurAupair made the process from applying to placing to actually arriving in the USA a stroll in the park.

*Thank you Zinia for sharing your experience with us. We wish you many more wonderful moments with your Host Family!*

## Recipe Corner

### Peri Peri Chicken

From South African Au Pair Kayla Crouse currently in Highland Park, IL

#### Ingredients:

- Juice of 2 lemons
- 1 1/2 teaspoon of minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon of white vinegar
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 1/4 cup of extra virgin olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon of ground black pepper
- 1/2 a yellow onion, roughly chopped
- 1 teaspoon of cayenne pepper
- 1 tablespoon of chili powder
- 1 tablespoon of paprika
- 1 teaspoon of ground oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon of ground ginger
- 2 pounds of boneless, skinless chicken breasts

#### Instructions:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together everything except for the chicken. Add the chicken and toss with tongs to coat in the marinade. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate overnight, or at least three hours.

2. When ready to cook, preheat your oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat an oven-safe skillet over medium-high heat until very hot. Use tongs to transfer the chicken breasts out of the bowl and into the pan, reserving

the marinade. Let cook for two or three minutes per side, until nice and browned.

3. Pour the reserved marinade into the pan and spoon the sauce onto the chicken. Turn off the stove and transfer the pan to the pre-heated oven.

4. Let cook in oven for 15-20 minutes (depending on thickness of chicken breasts), or until cooked through

5. Enjoy!



Kayla with her host brothers: Jonah (11), Leo (5) and Sammy (4)