

Reflecting on 17 Years: A Final Message from Our Dedicated Counselor



Gila's last meeting with au pairs

“Dear EurAupair Family,

After 17 incredible years, the time has come for me to retire as your community counselor. It has been a remarkable journey, and I am filled with gratitude as I look back on all the wonderful experiences and connections I've made.

My journey began unexpectedly when Vivi Frumkin asked my daughter, who was already a counselor, if she knew anyone interested in the role. I remember receiving that life-changing phone call from Vivi while standing in a retail store dressing room. Little did I know that this conversation would lead me to a fulfilling career, supporting au pairs from many different countries, guided by our comprehensive manual and monthly meetings and calls.

The role allowed me to explore Chicago, holding meetings at various points of interest and taking tours. I learned so much about the diverse cultures, customs, foods, and languages of the au pairs. I always made it a point to welcome them in their language when they arrived and to say goodbye when they left.

The relationships I've built with my au pairs have been truly special. Many have stayed in touch, some settling in Chicago and starting families, others returning home but continuing our friendship across the miles. Each one has left an indelible mark on my heart.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of Vivi Frumkin, our Midwest Area Coordinator. Vivi has been a pillar of strength and assistance, always ready to help day or night, weekdays or weekends. Her dedication and kindness have been invaluable, and I knew that any challenge could be resolved with her by my side.

As I step into retirement, I eagerly look forward to spending more time with my grandchildren and helping my daughter in her confectionery. However, I will deeply miss the joy and excitement of being part of the EurAupair family, witnessing the adventures and growth of our au pairs.

Thank you, EurAupair, for the countless memories and the opportunity to be part of this incredible community. I am grateful for every moment and every connection made.

With gratitude and fondness,”

Community Counselor Gila Peller from Northbrook, IL

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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”.

Would You Like to Contribute?

If you would like to contribute to the EurAupair Gazette, please email info@euraupair.com. We would love to hear from our Host Families, Au Pairs, Community Counselors, Area Coordinators and Partners.

The Hummer Family

The Hummer family in Indiana and au pair Victoria from Brazil have enjoyed 2 years together.

How to say goodbye and thank you?

You go out for dinner, talk about the years, smile, laugh and finally have a photo taken.



Left to right: David (CC's husband), CC Ann, AP Victoria from Brazil, little Runa (nearly 4yrs old) and the host parents.

Spreading Holiday Cheer: Au Pair Experience Volunteering at Hope Ministries



Daniela (fourth from the left)

Daniela from Venezuela has written about her experience serving the homeless a meal at Hope Ministries in Indiana.

“We, as au pairs, are very grateful for the opportunity to have served for the homeless. Knowing that there is a place that helps them, giving them a space to live and eat is very comforting, also helping people that necessarily don't live there to have a plate of food daily.

We were able to connect with each of them and I must honestly say that as a lesson we have that each of us has everything and sometimes we are not as grateful as we should be. We have so many opportunities in this world but we forget about it because it is completely common for us. Being so close to people who have nothing but are still so grateful leaves you with mixed feelings and a lot to reflect on.

Thanks to the workers at Hope Ministries for giving us the opportunity to be there, despite all being from different countries, we are very lucky to meet people with such beautiful hearts! The work environment was very nice and fun. Honestly, each of the people who work there are very friendly! I hope to continue helping in other opportunities!!”

Connecting Cultures Since 1994: A New Jersey Community Counselor's Journey

“I ventured into the international exchange world in serendipity. A friend noticed how I enjoyed hosting French high school students and recruiting families. When the season ended, she put me in touch with a young, growing cultural exchange program - EurAupair. At various times, I have volunteered with our sister organizations Aspire and Go Campus. All of these projects were mind openers.

I liked the yearlong aspect of the program which allowed time for relationships to develop and I liked the fact that this agency is a non-profit organization and that it was smaller than the original two programs. I immediately appreciated the administrators with whom I worked as well as the other Counselors, some of whom became friends. Because we were a smaller agency, we were able to offer outstanding support. EurAupair also respected rules set by the Department of State like in-person meetings, regular personal contact with families and Au Pairs and in-person education. These procedures have stayed in place even as we grew. What has changed is technology. Many people complain of the proliferation of technology but technology enables me to stay in more frequent contact with Au Pairs, host families, and administrators. It is a bonus to stay in touch with former Au Pairs and host families.

On a personal level I have encountered new cultures, languages and different ways of seeing the world. I read the newspapers and watch the news reports differently. I take a personal interest in an earthquake or a hurricane or political unrest in another hemisphere because I know people who live there. I see my own town, state and country differently because I have seen these venues through the eyes of young people who have experienced it for the first time.

In our cluster area, new parks, museums, hiking trails and scenic lookouts pop up all the time. Whole neighborhoods are created with urban development. So, the old favorite meeting spots co-exist with new mini-worlds.



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There have been challenges along the way mostly due to misunderstandings of the purpose of the program but those challenges pale numerically and qualitatively in comparison to the good stories which I will share here:

- Host families who organized their vacations to attend the weddings of their former Au Pairs;
- A Counselor who went to Europe and celebrated her birthday with a number of her former protegee Au Pairs;
- Former Au Pairs who return to visit, sometimes with their parents and sometimes with their children;
- The family of an Au Pair who came to visit at the end of her year and traveled to Disney World with their daughter's host family;
- The host father who went on a business trip to his Au Pair's home country and visited her parents to say that she was doing well;
- The Au Pair whose father was elected mayor of his town while she was here in the US;
- The host mom who watched Grey's Anatomy every Thursday night with her Au Pair;
- The Au Pairs who watched the Oscar Awards in real time for the first time;
- The host daughter who spent a month in France with her former Au Pair's parents;
- The grandparents who came to visit from out of state and took the Au Pair and their grandchildren to Disney during winter break;
- The host mom who arranged for her Au Pair to bring her toddler to mom's office once a week for lunch;
- The Au Pair who volunteered with her host parents at a food pantry on Thanksgiving;
- The Au Pair who volunteered as her host daughter's Brownie leader;
- The host family who purchased their first home with the idea that they needed an Au Pair's bedroom because that was part of their long term planning;
- The Au Pair who missed her horse at home and volunteered at a local stable in exchange for an hour of riding once a week;
- The little girls who were thrilled to welcome an Au Pair from Finland because that is where Santa lives;
- The families (a recent development) who tell me that they want an Au Pair because they grew up with Au Pairs and their neighbors were all jealous because they had an Au Pair who played with them;
- A host dad that told me that his first Au Pair taught him to play the piano when he was four years old and he thinks of her whenever he plays now;
- The host parents who tell me that they never worry about snow days because they have an Au Pair on board to help even if school or daycare closes early or closes for the vacation or illness;
- The families who have learned to love food from a culture not their own;
- The host families who have crossed psychological and political lines to welcome an Au Pair from a culture they never thought they could appreciate and ended loving their Au Pair and sometimes, her country of origin;
- The host mom who gave her Au Pair her baby's first pair of shoes to take home as a souvenir with thanks for her wonderful childcare;
- The host dad who said "there is no country or culture that I am not interested in learning about".

I am delighted to have the time and opportunity to engage with EurAupair full-time and even after 30 years, I still look forward to many more years of cultural adventures with EurAupair!"

Community Counselor Marita from New Jersey

From Mexico to Alaska—and Beyond: An Au Pair's Journey to the Italian Runway

Monserrat from Mexico is sharing her experience as an au pair in Alaska and her fashion show in Italy.

Monserrat from Mexico is sharing her experience as an au pair with the Wilson Family in Alaska and her fashion show in Italy.

"My name is Monserrat Velasco Garduño, I'm 26 years old, from Mexico, and currently living in Alaska as an au pair. For the past nine months, I've been caring for an adorable 16-month-old boy, and it's been an incredible experience. Being an au pair has also allowed me to continue my career as a fashion designer. I designed a dress for my host mom for a local fashion show, which received so

many compliments. With my host family's support, I even presented my brand in Venice, Italy—a dream come true.

Living in Alaska has its challenges, but my host family has been there for me every step of the way. We've grown so close that I've decided to stay with them for another year. Now, my host mom is encouraging me to do a runway show here in Alaska, and I'm hopeful it will happen. I'm so grateful to my host family for supporting me, showing me Alaska, and helping me achieve dreams I never imagined."



EurAupair Photos

Monthly Activities



From left - Ester (Spain), Oceane (Germany), Maria (Colombia), CC Ilana, Michelle (Mexico), Liliana (El Salvador), Cathrine (Denmark), Camila (Argentina), Lucy (Venezuela) at Spring Bulb Planting community event in South Orange, NJ.



Alaskan au pairs at a local restaurant in Anchorage, AK



Bishop Pumpkin Farm Sacramento au pairs



Au pair Kethlin (Brazil) in Fort Smith, AR



Cultural meeting in Denver, CO



From left - Catalina (Argentina), Alejandra (Venezuela), her guest, Daniela (Venezuela), CC Pat, Kneeling - Milena (Argentina) and Daniela (Colombia) in South Bend, IN



Leonie (Germany), Luzani (South Africa), Cristina (Spain), Courtney (South Africa), and CC Lala at Picha farm in Waller, WA



Thanthiwa (Thailand) in Boise, ID



Louise (France) and her host child in Pittsburgh, PA



Top row - Luna (Colombia), Engela (South Africa), Yongwei (China), bottom - Dory (Dominican Republic) and her guest in Dallas, TX



Top - Ellie (Thailand), middle Kaylile (Namibia) and bottom CC Ulrike in Austin, TX