

„Happy Łapy”



Erasmus+

European Voluntary Service in High School (Zespół Szkół Mechanicznych) in Lapy

Marcos's memories after 9 months of volunteering

This year was going to be my third one living abroad. I've heard a bunch of good critics and positive stories about youngsters who made up their minds, packed up their stuff and headed to some European village or city, leaving their comfortable lives behind. It sounds good, I thought, so I started fulfilling applications and sending my CV like crazy. After several shots I saw the ANAWOJ's Project. I've been to Poland one summer and carried a good impression with me. Furthermore, this project would be about working in a school (pretty much me considering I love teaching and education). 30 minutes after I was receiving an email back from Paulina Podolak, the one who would interview me some days after, be my coordinator and after all, needless to say, my friend.

I've been living at Lapy, big village or small town (up to your an-

and very friendly and generous. They always tried to ease our

stay because as so many said to me: You are our guest! Other good thing of Lapy is its uncomparable location near the National Park which Narew's river pass through, good spot for going kayaking!

I had a lot of fun working at the school: Not only my mentor was good to me but also all the staff working there, all were very patient

and nice since the very beginning until the end of the year. I never got bored because my work there was quite demanding and changing, I had different assignments as teaching Spanish to some teachers, assisting the English lectures, coaching Judo or lending a hand at the school's library.



Marcos with director (on the right) and vice-director of the school

gle). It's located about 25 km from the city of Bialystok. Before going I was a little scared of being isolated in Lapy because of the lack of public transportation, but as I could see, we had plenty of choices: Two bus companies and two more for trains. All of them working all day long. What I liked the most of Lapy was its people, quite curious about us as foreigners

„Someone told me we are made of stories[...]"

Every Thursday I used to play football with some of my teachers and almost every Friday we hung out with local youngsters from Lapy. Saturdays were our special days for chilling out, and when the sun set, head to Bialystok and meet with our volunteers from the city.

I can say I've brought not only amazing memories but also

great friendships, and why not to say, good new skills under my belt. Someone told me we are made of stories, this is true, after this year I will never be the same person and this EVS experience'll be inside me forever.

Marcos García Brea,
ex EVS volunteer



Marcos judo team