

Monica

Hiszpanka na Podlasiu



Erasmus+

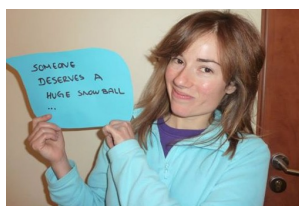
European Voluntary Service in Zespół Szkół im. gen. Nikodema Sulika in Dąbrowa Białostocka

My EVS memory by Monica Estebaranz Bustamante



It is approximately one year ago when ANAWOJ association informed me that I had been selected to be an EVS Volunteer in Dabrowa Bialostocka in Poland.

I remember that I was finishing my studies to become a Highschool Teacher so I was very excited. I could work in what I like to do the most: Teaching! In addition, a new adventure was waiting for me: I would discover a new country, new culture, new people, new habits of life and new landscape! I started to look for information about this town, whose name took me some months to pronounce correctly, but the only information that I could find was... The temperature in winter: -30 degrees!!!:O I was shocked! I imagined my self-isolated under two meters of snow and turning into an ice cube in a second when leaving the house!



Fortunately, that never happened, despite I wished every

day to wake up, look through my window and see two meters of snow! It was very hard and difficult time. It was not fast at all. However, I must say that I learnt in a few months almost more than in my entire life.

Consequently, now I have only words of thanks:

Thank you to everybody who was interested in sharing time with me. Thank you to everybody who shared the lunch time with me talking and socializing as we do in Spain. Thank you for the instructive conversations about the history and politics in Poland. Thank you to all the persons who opened their homes and hearts to show me their way of life and the story of their families. I admire your strength and courage. Thank you to all my students. Thank you for your interest and motivation to learn. Thank you for coming to the lessons with big enthusiasm. Thank you for helping me to develop my teaching skills. It was a pleasure to teach you. Thank you to the children from kindergarten, including the class

with special needs their families and super energetic and lovely teachers. Thank you for your smiles and love, for playing and dancing. Thank you for being such a good little teachers. I learnt a lot of polish words with you, including very important ones: *kocham cie*.

Thank you to the group of retired ladies and gentleman. Thank you for inviting me to the parties, for coming to the lessons and other activities, for showing me the polish culture, funny dancing and language and for cooking so delicious food, cakes and cookies. You took care of me like my own grandparents. Thank you to the workers in the boarding school and lyceum. Thank you for cooking and taking care of me like my family. Thank you for your patient when I could not speak polish and thank you for nice conversations when I could. You were very good "house mates". Also thank you to the students for the volleyball matches and the company during the very long evenings of Polish winter.



"I will miss you all, as well as your deep forests, unique animals and green meadows."

And finally big thanks to ANAWOJ Association, Lyceum of Dabrowa Bialostocka, Culture houses of Dabrowa and Lipsk, Biebrzanski National Park and to everybody who made possible with their initiative and time to start an EVS Project in this remote place of the beautiful region of Podlasie. Thank you very much for offering this intercultural experience to all of us. In addition, thank you to the other volunteers for listening, support-

ing and sharing their experiences. I will miss you all, as well as your deep forests, unique animals and green meadows. For sure the wildest and the most special nature I have ever seen.

Do zobaczenia Podlasiu!!!

Monica Estebaranz Bustamante



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