

WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY DO AS A RETURNEE?

by Friedemann Groth, volunteer in Casa del Migrante, Saltillo, Mexico, in 2009/10.

What am I? A returnee? An ex-volunteer?

This sounds as if my voluntary service had been a marked off, singular and non-recurrent period, from the start. It is over. Mission accomplished. The year is over. I can no longer pitch in to help. So, the term "Volunteer 2.0" is much more to my liking. I am the upgrade. Having set out as a do-gooder to experience my year and to look for the challenge of my life. I have found it and I can be proud to have coped with it. Before I could become this "volunteer 2.0", I had to be reintegrated. That had to come from me, but also from my family, friends and, of course, through a returnee seminar. Punctuality is working fairly well again. Friends and family have been treated with presentations, photos and stories so that there was no problem to meet in the middle of the gap. Now, as a volunteer 2.0, I am trying to cure the world's ills from home. As a proud ex-volunteer, I travel to preparation seminars, skype with the new volunteers in "MY" project, collect donations for the project, hold lectures and am active in political student groups. Apart from that, there is law as a course of study where one is rather sneered at as an incorrigible do-gooder. If they only knew what we have accomplished and what we are going to accomplish.

MEMBERS of the IB VAP team

Ann Lorschiedter has been the new team leader with IB VAP Franken since 1/2/2011.



Who am I? Somebody with many different interests which have led me to special places with special people.

Vocational training: Special pedagogue

Foreign experience: Internships and research work, e.g., in Tanzania, Sierra Leone; work with former male and female child soldiers and for an Italian NGO in Northern Uganda.

Things which fascinate me? Passion for the realization of dreams – in combination with a realistic readiness to compromise.



PHOTO COMPETITION 2011

... this is the motto of the photo competition of the Fürth VAP team starting as of now and going on till July 31, 2011. We should like to invite you to submit photos on the issue of "I as a learner in my living environment abroad". The point for us is also the involvement with the issue of just and humane visual language.

We would like to use the selected photos for our new flyer!

Of course, there is also something to win: Book token and a high-quality large-format printout of your photo.

The submission deadline is July 31, 2011 (VAP-Franken@internationaler-bund.de).

The guiding principles in photographing are deference to human dignity and respect.



FIRST IB VAP BOOSTER CLUB WORKSHOP

On May 21, 2011, the first booster club workshop of the IB VAP teams took place in Kassel. The Franken IB VAP team was represented by Anja Vitzthum, and Bernhard Marien was the host of the IB VAP in Kassel. Following an input on the issue of "How do I build up a booster club?" concrete ideas and concepts were developed in small workgroups. In the afternoon, some best-practice examples were shown and the work results of the day brought together. A total of 28 volunteers of the next IB VAP year could profit from the manifold information and the creative atmosphere.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

From now on, we from the Franken and Kassel IB VAP teams want to report on our activities, partners, projects, current affairs in the field of voluntary services and many things more, in our new newsletter.

For this purpose we are always on the lookout for contributions from you! We are, e.g., interested in reports and photos from volunteers who are currently living and working abroad, in a feedback from those who are members of a booster club, in updates from ex-volunteers who are now in a new phase of life in Germany, ...

We are looking forward to your many emails to our address

VAP-Franken@internationaler-bund.de



PEDAGOGIC SPECIALIST CONFERENCE IN 2011

Between May 12 and 14, 2011, 15 IB seminar teamers and the full-timers of IB Kassel and IB Franken met in Fulda to prepare the oncoming preparatory and returnee seminars. As a moderator and coach, Axel Wiehold (coach with the fid service centre for international voluntary service with a long experience) supported us with many proposals. We enjoyed taking these three days exchanging and analyzing methods, approaches and processes and rounding off the day with funny games and cooking.

We are very much looking forward to the seminars with the new volunteers to send them abroad at the beginning of September and we are also looking forward to meeting again the volunteers who will return in September!

Many thanks, at this point, to our wonderful teamers for your commitment and your support!



VISITS TO PROJECTS IN CAMEROON, BURKINA FASO AND TANZANIA

In February and March, 2011, Andrea and Michael of the IB VAP team in Kassel visited the volunteers and their projects in the countries of Cameroon, Burkina Faso, and Tanzania. For the two supervisors within the voluntary service programs of weltwärts [worldwards], FSJ im Ausland [Voluntary Social Year Abroad], and Internationaler Jugendfreiwilligendienst [International Youth Voluntary Service] the impressions were intensive and lasting. As a result of the two trips the existing cooperations are to be continued. In all the three countries, additional placements building on the previous experiences of this cooperation will be offered as of the year 2011/12.



TANZANIA
The two volunteers Sarah and Katrin at Michael Prieb's visit at Kiesongo College near Arusha/Tanzania



CAMEROON
Andreas Schubert in front of the town hall in Bali-Nyonga/Cameroon, with the mayor (on her right side) and the project coordinator Patrick Chung Ndifon (far left). She was accompanied on her trip by the current volunteers in Cameroon (Leo, Luis, and Jan, from left)



Heading...Marburg:

for the EX-VOLUNTEERS' WEEKEND 2011

On May 20, 2011, the ex-volunteers' meeting of the international volunteers of the IB took place, for the fifth year now. This year, the weekend, which was organised by ex-volunteers under the umbrella of the "Zuhause Weltweit e.V." association, brought together ex-volunteers of five different volunteer years and their teamers. As is to be expected from a proper seminar, the meeting took place in a pathfinder house in a beautiful forest location – but also close to the Marburg castle which fact was used to explore the university town of Marburg with its mediaeval uptown, in sunny weather.

This year, the weekend was, above all, characterized by relaxation, meeting again and taking a time out. We spent both evenings with campfire and guitar, recalling our memories and asking about the new adventures of old friends and acquaintances. We also didn't have to forego



good food. After all, our ex-volunteers meeting brought together our accumulated experiences from a number of seminars, voluntary service years and regions.

After a round of yoga evening program, Viking chess and extended walks, the soul finally escapes from ordinary life – at the same time looking forward to the next ex-volunteers meeting, which is to take place from June 1 to 3. Everyone who wants to participate in its preparation is heartily welcome to contact Philipp or Johannes under the email address: post@zuhause-weltweit.de or one of the IB VAP offices!

REPORTS

FROM VOLUNTEERS FROM ABOARD



My highlights up to now: "Ah, there are many. Some in the situations with the children, in which I simply knew that it was right to be here. The feedback talks with our management who simply supported me. Short trips to Zaragoza and Madrid. Moments, in which you celebrate hot water and a working internet connection. Going and getting one's own wage for the first time. Buying foodstuff by oneself only, being independent. Talking sentimentally about OUR year with one's flatmates, after two glasses. Cooking and living together. Giving children pleasure and laughing with them. Being acknowledged for one's work. Having one laughing fit after the other, on the court, when playing basketball, on Monday evenings, so that you mis-throw every ball and, finally, the whole team cannot help but laugh. Showing one's family life what life here is like. Eating with one's flatmates so much, one evening, that you feel so sick that you just have to laugh. Yes, I could go on enumerating for a long time."

(Tida, Valencia German School / Spain)

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