

# Report about Voluntary-Service

after 9 months

**Name of the volunteer:** Eva-Maria L.

**Name of the project:** Lukas Community

**Period of voluntary service:** 12 months, 2011-12

## **1. How do you feel about your life and work in your hosting country?**

I am having a great time here. Working and living together comes naturally somehow. First I was not sure if I can live where I work and vice versa. For me the biggest challenge is not the work itself which I really enjoy but being so close all the time with co-workers. On one hand it's great that you're sharing so much time together but sometimes I am wishing for a social life outside of the community. Finding friends outside the project is not easy though, probably due to the fact that this is a rural area and young people move away in order to go to college or find a job.

I like what I am doing and I would do it again. I like living here so much and already met a bunch of great and interesting people.

## **2. Did your first impressions change after 9 months in the new country? How is work in your project? Did your function and responsibilities change since the report?**

I have the feeling that I have a better understanding now. Of course I always tried to see things from others point of view but this here is different. I guess for some time I had more responsibility. One of my residents died from cancer and fortunatly we were able to have her here till the end. I used to be afraid of death but being so close and seeing with how much dignity and joy you can go this way helped me a lot.

## **3. Were you able to achieve some of your goals? What do you still want to do during the next few months?**

I am doing this because I want to contribute to something bigger. But I must admit that in addition I was hoping to improve my english. That didn't happen due to the fact that in these facilities are mostly german people and other foreigners working. Instead I learned things like knitting, gardening, bookbinding...which is also cool! I am quite satisfied with my work, I practice reading with my resident, try to teach german and we always have certain goals which residents want to achieve and we are helping with that.

## **4. What do you expect of your return back home? What do you want to do? Can you connect your voluntary service to your life at home?**

I honestly do not know....right now I do not feel like going back to Germany. I really enjoy living here but of course I also miss my family and friends. So I guess I will figure that out after coming back.