

My year as a volunteer in Germany

Written by Gerson R

This year was the best experience I had in my life. I had the chance to leave my and live in another country. I left for Germany on the 8 Feb 2019 and returned to Namibia on 1 Feb 2020. During this time I learned a lot about the German culture and I really enjoyed it.

I went to Germany to work with disabled people in a day care centre. I liked this work from the beginning; it was a great and beautiful experience. To care for and support this mostly elderly people changed my mind. I learned how important it is to share and being there for one another. They even taught me the language, now I can speak German.

I really loved my work and my work place, the professionalism and the way how the work was organised. I learned how to work with other people and how to cooperate with my colleagues. Working together and socializing with them was nice and helpful for me. After my host parents they became the most important people for me.

My host family was excellent, very kind people who cared a lot. From the bottom of my heart I can only say "Thank you" – also in the name of my Namibian family. I really appreciate what they did for me. They made it easy for me from the start and took good care of me in all situations. The atmosphere in the house was international and open minded.

Travelling around Germany and France and Austria was an unbelievable and awesome experience, really mind blowing. I learned so much and saw a lot of different landscapes and places. We travelled work related to other German towns, especially during our seminars. And I travelled with my host family during holidays. In this time we visited famous places and attractions to learn, see and understand German history.

It is easy to understand the culture and to adjust to it once one understands the reasons on which it is based. On the other hand, I learned how to cope with the term "the people" as there are so many different regional and cultural types of them. It will also help me to better understand the people in my home country.