

Volunteer Report – Final Reflection

Hello there,

Time really does fly. It feels unreal that I am now writing my final volunteer report. It seems like only yesterday I arrived in Germany, feeling both excited and nervous about the journey that lay ahead. Now, as I reflect on the past months, I am filled with gratitude and pride.

To continue where I left off in my previous report, I can confidently say that at this stage of my volunteering journey, I feel incredibly proud of myself. Looking back, I realize how much I have grown not only as a volunteer but also as a person. I am deeply grateful for the people I have met, the meaningful relationships I have built, and the experiences that have shaped me into the person I am today.

This journey has challenged me in ways I never expected, but it has also taught me resilience, patience, and the importance of stepping outside my comfort zone. Every experience, whether joyful or difficult, has played a role in my personal growth, and I will always carry these lessons with me long after my volunteering experience comes to an end.

Working at the Children's and Youth Centre

Working at the children's and youth centre has taught me so much about what it truly means to care for and support young people. Every day has been a learning experience. Working with the children has shown me the importance of kindness, patience, and creating a safe space where they feel seen, heard, and valued. When it comes to the youth, I have learned to be even more patient, understanding, and open-minded, as everyone comes from different backgrounds and has their own unique stories.

Alongside working with the children and young people, I have been incredibly fortunate to be part of such a supportive and understanding team. They welcomed me from the very beginning, encouraged me through every challenge, and made my volunteering experience enjoyable and fulfilling. Their guidance and trust have helped me grow both personally and professionally, and I will always be grateful for the role they played in my journey.

Language-wise, I am still learning and improving every day. Although there have been moments where communication was challenging, I never gave up. Instead, I continued pushing myself to learn, practice, and become more confident. Looking back, I can proudly say that I now feel much more comfortable and confident in everything I do. I feel empowered and ready to face whatever challenges come my way.

A Memory I Will Never Forget

One of the moments I will cherish forever was our trip to Kinder Galaxy with the children. It was such a joyful experience watching them laugh, jump on the giant inflatable castles, climb the different play structures, and simply enjoy being children.

One of my favourite memories from that day was playing catch with them and running around together. Seeing their smiles whenever I was around made me appreciate them even more. Their happiness was contagious, and it reminded me that sometimes the simplest moments become the most meaningful ones.

That day was more than just a fun outing; it strengthened the bond I had built with the children throughout my volunteering year. It is a memory that will forever remain engraved in my heart, and whenever I think about my time in Germany, it will be one of the first moments that comes to mind.

Looking Back

As I begin wrapping up my volunteering year, I find myself experiencing mixed emotions. It is sad to think about leaving because Germany has truly become my second home. I have created memories that I will cherish forever, formed genuine friendships, and found a community that made me feel welcomed and appreciated.

At the same time, I am excited to return home and reunite with my family and friends. I cannot wait to share all the experiences, lessons, and memories I have collected throughout this incredible year.

When I compare the person who first arrived in Germany to the person I am today, I see remarkable growth. This experience has taught me so much about myself and the kind of life I want to build. I have learned the importance of taking care of my physical and mental health, setting healthy boundaries, and putting myself first when necessary. These are lessons I know I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Looking back, I can confidently say that volunteering in Germany has been one of the most meaningful chapters of my life. It has challenged me, inspired me, and helped me become a stronger, more compassionate, and more confident person. Although this chapter is coming to an end, I know the memories, friendships, and lessons will stay with me forever.

A Heartfelt Thank You

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the organisation for everything they have done for me throughout this journey. Being part of this organisation has truly changed my life for the better.

Because of this opportunity, I have grown in ways I never imagined possible. I have gained new experiences, built meaningful relationships, discovered new cultures, and created a life for myself outside of South Africa. This experience has opened my mind, broadened my perspective, and given me the confidence to believe in myself and my future.

As I leave Germany, I do so with a heart full of gratitude and hope. I feel ready to begin the next chapter of my life and continue learning, growing, and embracing new opportunities wherever they may take me.

Although this chapter is ending, I know it is not my last time in Germany. I will definitely be back—stronger, wiser, and with even more appreciation for everything this beautiful country and this incredible experience have given me.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of my journey. Thank you for believing in me, supporting me, and helping me become the person I am today.

This may be the end of my volunteering journey, but it is only the beginning of everything that lies ahead.

With love and gratitude,

Yibanam Mbawuli (Queen)