



Bringing the World Together

THE UP WITH PEOPLE NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Staff

Throughout North America, **November** is a time to give thanks for all one is grateful for during the year. With this in mind, the Up with People staff would like to share nine things, pertaining to Up with People, that they are thankful for:

"I am thankful that the alumni, host families and community members who support us in our efforts to keep this wonderful program in existence by donating their time, talents and money!"

-Tammie Limoges, Director of Development

"I am thankful that we have a small but mighty dedicated staff who gives so much passion and expertise to this re-launched program!"

-Tim Lane, Vice President

"I am thankful that the new model of UWP allows us to partner with other community-focused organizations to build a brighter tomorrow."

-Kerri Ann Appleton, Manager of North America Operations

"I am thankful for the hard work, dedication, and love my colleagues demonstrate daily to fulfill the vision of a better tomorrow."

-Martin Brennan, Cast Manager

"I am thankful to the many wonderful business and community leaders locally and across the globe who support our efforts to bring the world together."

-Tommy Spaulding, President and CEO

"I am thankful for the opportunity to interact with amazing young individuals from many places in the world through the interviews I do with future students!"

-Anke Sloat, Enrollment Counselor

"I'm thankful that I have the opportunity to give back to an organization that has given me so much in my life!"

-Nicky Brown, Regional Recruiter-Texas

"I am thankful for the ripples of peace, understanding and love being created by our staff and students."

-Korey Riggs, Director of Global Partnerships

"I am thankful for being surrounded by people who care; who care about each other; who care about a mission; who care about something larger than themselves."

-Joern Gutowski, Cast Manager

A Message from the Staff, Continued

NOVEMBER AROUND THE WORLD

*In the United States, November is a month of thanksgiving,
but around the world, it carries a variety of other meanings . . .*

In **Finnish**, November is called marraskuu, meaning “month of the dead.”

In **Korean**, it is called “Sip-il-weol,” meaning the month number eleven.

In **Polish**, November is called “Listopad,” meaning “month of falling leaves.”

In **Turkish**, November is called “Kasim.”

In **Xhosa**, November is called ngeyeNkanga, meaning “month of the small yellow daisies.”

WATCH UP WITH PEOPLE IN THE MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE!

Up with People has been invited to perform at two of the most popular, televised American parades this winter. As previously announced, Cast C 2007 will participate in the **82nd Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** on November 22. Their presence will be accompanied by a 60 second television slot, viewed by more than 26 million people around the world. For more information, visit www.upwithpeople.org/Media_Events.html.



Up with People has also been selected to produce and perform the **Opening Ceremony of the 119th Rose Parade**. The 2008 Rose Parade will kick off the New Year on January 1, 2008, and the theme is *Passport to the World's Celebrations*. The parade will be broadcast on ABC, NBC, Univision, HGTV, Travel Channel, and Discovery HD. It will be seen in more than 150 international territories.

We are honored and excited to participate in both of these events and hope you will watch!

Student Spotlight



1) *How have your experiences in the United States shaped your understanding of American culture and life?*

During staging, the cast was not even sure if there is an "American culture" because America is so diverse that a culture in one part of the United States can be very different from another. Moreover, for a lot of European students, and also for me, we were not sure if the American life is really different from the European life.

Stefan Wirtz

Now I know that there is an American culture and I know that the American way to live is different from the European life. My experiences in UWP helped me to understand that American culture is based on open-minded and motivated people. They are willing to work hard, to help wherever and whenever they can, and to build strong communities. Especially in small communities like in Winston, Corcoran or Coos Bay, people are very thankful and friendly to students because they really appreciate our visits. I had amazing experiences with host families and with people who only saw the show; they were so excited about the UWP message and our energy on stage and during the week.

Moreover, I got the feeling that American people always try to make the best out of their situation. This impressed me a lot because it makes their lives so much easier. In Europe, people often complain about their situations, but I never really got that feeling from people in the US. I had a lot of host families who had more money than an average family in the US, but I also had two families who seemed to have nearly nothing. Even so, they wanted to host UWP students because they thought it would be the right thing to do and that they should help this "awesome organization."

It means a lot to me when people want to share their house, the food in their refrigerator, and their time with me even though they don't even have enough of all this for themselves. I really appreciate that, and this experience helped me to understand how much the American life depends on getting the most out of it and helping other people to have the same experience!

2) *What have you learned from some of the community leaders you met in the cities you have visited?*

Basically, the most important thing I learned is to be flexible and take nearly every chance to change and improve your life. Even if it's sometimes a challenge, you should use every opportunity, and again, try to get the best out of it! If you look at the careers of almost all of the community leaders, you will see that they worked several different jobs and even worked for different businesses before they finally found the right one and became really successful. Furthermore, it's very important to be part of a good network, because especially today, a lot of business decisions are resolved through personal contacts. Another important thing is to focus on one job if it seems to be the right one so that you can become good at it and can become a leader in this business.

Another point which I learned especially from community leaders (for example the mayor and the city manager of Winston) in the small communities is that you need volunteer workers to establish a nice and

Student Spotlight



Interview with Stefan, Continued

peaceful community. Small communities often do not have enough money from taxes, so they are not able to employ a lot of workers. Therefore, they depend on volunteer workers. It's amazing to see how those people improve the communities and help with everything. Especially in Germany, I would like to see more community service work. All in all, that shows that even as a community leader, you still need help from many people; otherwise, your community doesn't work well!

3) What is one experience you had while on tour in the United States that you will always remember?

A really nice experience which I probably will have in my heart forever happened during my time in Tucson. I was there for Advance Work and stayed in my host family for two and a half weeks. My host parents were very, very nice people and they had an autistic son my age. I never had lived with an autistic person before and I learned so much.

But what really affected me was to see how the relationship between he and I developed. For him, it was hard to get in contact with strangers and obviously, I was a stranger to him. I was even living in his house, talking to his parents, and petting his dogs. Fortunately, I found a way to calm him down, and so our relationship started to improve. After five days, he tickled me the first time. His parents explained to me that this is his way to show me that he accepted me and likes me.

During the next days, we often played Wheel of Fortune because it's his favorite game, although he doesn't know how to spell words - he guesses! In his world, there are only seven people, and he knows only the names of these people. After 10 days he knew eight names, because he called my name! I came back from a hard working day and he was waiting for me at the door and shouted: "Stefan, come with me!" Of course he wanted me to play Wheel of Fortune with him, but I first needed a minute to calm down, because I seriously had tears in my eyes, and so did my host parents.

From there on we had such a great time and he started asking for me all the time during the day and he waited for me every evening. I became his best friend during this less than three weeks and I had a great, great experience!

By the way, I still have a very good contact to this host family and they told me that he still asks for me sometimes, even though he hasn't seen me for six weeks.

4) What would you like to learn about or do while in Europe?

I think I know about the European culture quite well, especially about the countries we will visit. I'm excited to hear from the international students about what they think about Europe and our culture. Maybe it's different from what I think, but I'll find out for sure. I'm also curious about how the host families in Europe are and if they are as open-minded and willing to have deep conversation about serious topics as the host families in the US.

What I want to learn about Europe is how the people in the different countries (Italy, Switzerland, Ger-

Student Spotlight



Interview with Stefan, Continued

many, Netherlands and Belgium) think about the other countries, about the European Union and the countries who want to get into it (for example Turkey). I'm sure that I can learn a lot and get very different opinions, and this topic will help me to have a more neutral view. Having different opinions can always help you to find a deeper understanding of a topic, and it gives you the great opportunity to reflect about your own opinion.

I haven't been to Milan, so I'm very excited to go there and see this beautiful city. I also want to try to go to Berlin on my free day in Prenzlau, because Germany can be proud of this city, and I want to show it to all the other students! Anyway, I mostly want to continue my tradition of the last two months: Wake up early, even on the free days, to see as many things as possible and get the most out of it. And then I will have a awesome time in Europe too, although I'm from Germany and have already seen a lot of things.