



Global Outreach Host Mom, Mary Howard, Shares... "Absolutely Overwhelmed" and "Greatly Blessed"

After being unable to host any Global Outreach students from April 2020 through June 2021, I was so excited to have the opportunity to visit both of my previous students in July 2021! I was fortunate that this was possible during a window of time with low COVID cases, which enabled me to go abroad, even though the logistics were a little more complicated. These visits were truly a peak experience of my life.



First, I spent about a week with Viola and her family in Hungary. True to her personality, Viola planned out just about every moment of our visit so that I could experience not only the beautiful capital city of Budapest, but also the mountains, rural villages, a pilgrimage site, and a lakeside resort town. She and her parents, grandparents, and brother could not have been more welcoming, and I was embraced into their family with great warmth and joy.

My second week was with Diana and family in Bratislava, and also at a lakeside cottage the family visits every summer. Like Didi herself, the experience was a mixture of energetic moments and laid-back calm. She has a large family and I met most of them during that week. They, too, opened their homes and hearts and treated me with such love and kindness, I was absolutely overwhelmed.



I was especially moved by two of the factors I observed in each family.

First, their incorporation of faith into everyday life: We visited churches and historical sites several times in both countries, and I could see the way that faith traditions were part of the survival of both cultures throughout so many long periods of occupation and oppression, including the Communist era and the Nazi invasion. Faith was where they turned when hope could not be found anywhere else. Even centuries ago, people survived attacks and fought to protect their freedom to believe and their places of worship, which often served as places of refuge for endangered individuals. I learned about the ways that family members of the girls took action to keep faith and hope alive during times of threat. The Masses I attended included many young people.

I was also deeply touched by my girls' knowledge of and appreciation for the history of their countries. They could tell me what was wonderful about their nations and their people; they were familiar with the important artists, poets and saints from their nations, as well as government or royal leaders. Their parents were able to describe what life was like during their youth, when Communism painted religious faith as a flaw, and created long waits for essential goods and services that effectively removed their ability to freely enjoy their daily lives and time with families. The contrast showed me how important it is for all of our democratic countries to protect human rights and dignity.

Going to Europe to visit my beautiful GO daughters deepened my commitment to the Global Outreach program. The students come here to learn about and experience American life, but they bring with them this faith foundation and great love of home that can affect their host families and American peers and friends in a way that may result in our own spiritual growth. Everyone involved with a GO student can benefit from the experience, whether our homes are in the U.S. or Eastern/Central Europe. This year, I am hosting Wiktoria from Poland, and we are already talking about things we will do when I visit her there. I have been greatly blessed.





Global Outreach Prayed For Us



More than two years ago I applied for Global Outreach Program. Even when I was at the GO Summer camp as a visitor, I had one of the best trips ever because of the people that surrounded me. I noticed that the Global Outreach is different from other exchange programs. They prepared us for the year, they prayed for us, and now, when we are finally here, they stay in touch with us and I can see how important is this touch.

For me it is a huge experience in my life that has already changed me so much! I am so proud to be the first Ukrainian GO student and to bring something new to my country. And I am more than sure it will even change me more during my year of discovering and growing.



Victoriia "Vika" Kuchma

2021-2022 Global Outreach Student

Welcomed by the Patrick & Molly Bushman Family, Chippewa Falls, WI

Everything To Do with God's Providence



When I think about Global Outreach, the first thing that comes to my mind is gratitude. I am thankful to be part of this chosen family. Through Global Outreach I have met some of the most amazing people I know, including the board and staff, my GO classmates, the alumni and the best host family I could ever wish for. These individuals have made an incredible difference in my life. In the past five years, this community has been there for me through thick and thin, providing constant love and support.

I used to think that I was lucky that I got into this program. Looking back at all the amazing experiences I've had through Global Outreach, I now know that it had nothing to do with luck and everything to do with God's providence. Being part of this program has made me realize that God's plan for me always exceeds the limits not my own imagination. It took a lot of courage to say yes to His calling, but I'm so glad I did.

The most valuable lesson this program has taught me was to take that leap of faith every day.

Becoming the president of Global Outreach Hungary was such an honor for me. It's a great way of putting the theory of servant leadership into practice. What I love the most about it is that I get to work with my best friends, which makes every task a fun challenge.



Ágota Mihálffy

President of GO Hungary

Global Outreach Alumna – Class of 2017-2018

Welcomed by the Christopher & Jaime Wolfe Family, Omaha, NE

For more GO Student testimonies and program news, we welcome you to visit the Global Outreach website at

www.globaloutreachprogram.com