

Fawco Youth Program 2018

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After a trip, the most common questions asked, are: “What did you see?” or “What did you learn?”, in this case the list to make is filled with so many different experiences I don't know where to begin. From the happy playfulness of gardening with the children thanks to “Serve the City” to the profound sadness of the Holocaust survivor's story, the variety of emotions I have been subjected to during this week has truly made it one of the most remarkable weeks of my life.

The theme of our week was “What is my part?”, and now reflecting on what we've done I understand the concept. One day we went gardening with “Serve the City” at a home for children with disabilities and even though after some time our gardening derailed into playing and having fun with the kids, I still think that what we did had a positive impact on all the people involved. The same is valid for our meeting with the Holocaust survivor, even though it may not seem at first because the subject is rather delicate, the importance of keeping the memory alive and having it told by someone who lived through it should not be underestimated and it is our duty to continue doing so to avoid that history repeats itself. Painting at the Ronald McDonald house and handing out food at the American Soup Kitchen are perfect examples of how doing something for charity, ergo for somebody else, can also mean receiving something positive yourself. For example the endearing words of the ladies receiving food at the soup Kitchen have stuck to me to this day.

In conclusion I would like to thank everybody who helped organise such an amazing week and let them know how thankful I am for letting me participate and gather these unique experiences. Furthermore I'd like to thank my host family who made me feel at home and made my experience in Berlin even better. I can say that I've learned a lot about Berlin, social issues and myself during this week and for those who consider joining this program next year, I can only recommend it.