

FAWCO Youth Cultural Volunteers 2018

Lucrece Lamontanara, IWCT Torino

My week in Berlin was an amazing experience and each day I learned something new. The city and the people were really welcoming and nice. Everyday was made of discovering and getting more involved.

Above all, the city of Berlin is a city with a large amount of resources such as its historical past, self-expression and freedom that it offers to the inhabitants, mixed cultures... But as teenagers and future citizens we should be aware of the issues we are surrounded by even if we do not face them everyday.

I think volunteering for the first time opened my eyes and now I feel way more aware about issues like poverty or education. I've always been involved in environmental causes but I never had the chance to help a community or those in the need. With the Fawco Youth Program, I had to invest myself, give my energy, my time and use my abilities for others and that was so rewarding and empowering ! We had many opportunities to volunteer and I did things that were definitely new for me like Sorting Clothes with Serve the City or Painting proper walls at the Ronald McDonald Haus. The great thing about this program is that we had the opportunity to help and do something that mattered while having fun, enjoying and making friends. I will always remember the painting task as a great moment because I had a lot of fun with my group and even if it was not " professionally made, it was done with the heart."

My favourite day of the week was Friday: we went to the American Church of Berlin and we gave food to homeless and poor people. It was the activity that had the biggest impact on me because you could directly see people's reactions and feelings and it made me aware of how lucky I am. I learned a lot that day and I got inspired so I will do my best to involve myself in the same way in my hometown.

Last but not least, I want to thank the people that made this program possible and my experience special regarding the Chaperones, my Host Family, Berlin local volunteers that involve themselves daily in various associations and the participants I enjoyed sharing my time with.