

Xianne Williams October 2018 Report

Well October is almost over and I honestly don't know where the time is going. In the moment everything goes slow but looking back I can see how fast time is passing. In a few weeks I will have been in Denmark for 3 months and in less than a month I will be changing host families.

As far as host families go I think I've won the lottery. I don't think there is a better set of families in the world. I absolutely love the family I'm with now and interactions with my other families have been nothing but love and acceptance. I am also very grateful because I have an excellent club counsellor who is always looking out for me and making sure I'm doing well. I am excited and sad to change families because my host parents and siblings have become my family in these past months and I will miss living and laughing with them, but I am also excited because changing families means I will be starting a new adventure of learning and getting to know another group of fantastic people.

I'm still attending language school and now I feel like I've started to really get the hang of the language. I'm reading books and writing reports completely in Danish (with mistakes of course but it is readable and you can understand what I'm saying). I'm really proud of myself for coming so far with the language in only a few months and it's such a great feeling to be able to figure out the meaning of a word without using Google translate, understanding when someone talks to you even though you don't know all the words, being able to make jokes in another language, naturally using Danish words when you're talking to people that only know English, and so many more things.

This month I also got to go to the annual Rotary Youth Exchange Get-together in Holbæk. It was a lot of fun to see everyone from Intro camp and it was nice to get to dress up in costume, carve pumpkins, and dance with friends. On the train home to Aalborg it started to snow and it was so sweet to see how excited some of the exchange students from South America were to see snow for the first time. The most important thing I've learned so far from my exchange is how important it is to enjoy every moment (I know it sounds cheesy and I'm not a fan of cheesy but it really is the most important thing). To be present and to appreciate everything you have.

For me being in Denmark has made me more aware of how entitled I feel in my own home and makes me appreciate everything I have here and in Kansas because I'm more aware that it isn't inherently mine to have. Being on an exchange has already made a huge impact on my life and I will be forever grateful for this opportunity and all the lessons I have learned along the way. Viser i November,

Xianne