

Hello everybody, I am Juliane, a nineteen year-old girl from Germany and I am here in Cebu as a volunteer worker since 4 weeks now. I live in a suburb of Munich and graduated last year (2013) from a German high school. I always knew that I won't begin to study right after my Graduation, because I wanted to do a "one-year-break" to travel around, explore some parts of the world and do social work in a country, which really needs help. My family has contacts to JusticeF, so I got attentive to this organization. When I arrived on the 27th of January in Cebu I dipped into a total different world. In the beginning it was really hard for me to see that many people here live in poverty, but within time you get used to it. At the same time you realize that living standards, like we have in Germany, are not self evident. But that is only one of many impressions and realizations I gained during my time here.

I work here with the children of the Community "Camolinas Housing"; I support Chilo, our Pre-School-Teacher, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm with the smallest kids, at the moment we learn how to write and read. From the beginning I thought, that the different language could cause a language barrier between the children and me (they are only 3 to 5 years old), but for the most part they understand me and if there are any understanding problems we solve that with hands and feet, worked perfectly until now ;) Initial I also learned a few words Visayan for breaking the ice between the kids and me.

In the late afternoon I help Erlee, our teacher for the Tutorials, to learn with the children of the Elementary- and High school. At the moment the kids from Elementary School and me are trying to make Multiplication-Pros out of them. I take pleasure in teaching the kids, because I know that they also have a good time. Furthermore it is really nice to see that they improve their Maths every week, they get better and better. I think about studying teacher-ship and I also take my time here as a chance for myself to find out if teaching children could be my occupation for the future.

In the free time between the Pre-School and the Tutorials I separate and list books for the planned library in the Community. Otherwise I play with the kids outside; clapping my hands and running through my legs are meanwhile very popular games ;) It is amazing to see, how these children spend their time without any material games or other things. At the same time they have so much fun that I would consider them as the happiest kids I have ever seen.

I am convinced that my mind will change about many things after my 6 weeks practical course here, spending my time here with the people really touches my soul and I feel that I am starting to see things with different eyes. I hope that the children will learn something from me, just as good as I learn from them.