

## **Interview with Theresa.**

Theresa Steinke, from Germany, has been a volunteer in Andebølle Ungdomshøjskole in 2009. Since she came back for a short visit last week, we had the chance to ask her few questions about her experience in Denmark.

**In 2009 you decided to be a volunteer and you worked in Andebølle during 12 months. How did you come to this decision and why did you choose Andebølle?**

Right after my graduation, I started to think about going abroad for a while, perhaps to live and work in the U.S. at the end of my last year of high school. Unfortunately, I had no money to realize this dream so I started to consider one of the Scandinavian Countries as a possible destination. I always liked this Countries for many reasons so I decided to send my application to a project of the European Commission called EVS (European Voluntary Service). After some research in the Internet, I sent 3 applications: 2 to Sweden and 1 to Denmark. Andebølle was the first project to answer so I decided to go there and work in the school. I've been there one year, since August 2009.

**What were your tasks in the school? Was this period in Andebølle important for your career and for your personal development?**

I helped in the office and also in Film and Media class, because I liked the subject. I had the possibility to attend Music class and I also worked together with the students to realize a "Bluebook". Furthermore, I has to take pictures of the students during classes or activities. I've always had a passion for photography, but this became something more during my stay in the school. I learned a lot about photography and editing processes in Andebølle and in that period I started to think about becoming a professional photographer in the future. When my year as a volunteer ended, I went back home, in Germany, and I got an Internship in a Photo Studio. At the moment I am learning how to edit pictures, how to use lights, how to shoot outside, and so on. I am really happy about this Internship but, at the end of it, I am thinking about sending applications to Danish Universities so I can come back and study in Denmark. We will see...

**Was your volunteering in Andebølle a turning point in your life?**

For sure. Living in Denmark, being in the school, working with the staff and with students from all over the world, all this changed me a lot. Everything was pretty awesome and I have only good memories of my 12 months in Denmark as a volunteer. Being in Andebølle makes you feel more "international" and more open; you can meet a lot of young people coming from so many different Countries... it is a special place. That is the reason why everybody is coming back again, even just for a couple of days. I came back just for a weekend to meet my old friends and to see the teachers again: in this days we had a lot of fun and we even recorded a song, to have a memory of this reunion. It was really great!

Lucia D'Addezio