

Volunteering for 5 months at Pong Tawee School

(November 2013- March 2014, Chiang Rai , Thailand)

My name is Nataly Diaz, I am 30 years old from Ecuador. At some point of my life I decided to make a change, live a unique experience that will last in my memory for my whole life, so I decided to come to Thailand and volunteer at a school as an English teacher. I lived in a little village in the middle of the way from Chiang Mai to Chiang Rai.

Since the first day all the school staff were just incredible kind with me, I shared a room with two more teachers that stayed there during the week, we had an awesome time together and develop a beautiful friendship. The school has 180 students and 18 teachers, 30 students stay at school during the week, these students are from different villages from the mountains so its easier for them live at school during the week.

I taught to all the students from primary to secondary school, at the beginning was very challenging because nobody at school speak English only two teachers so I had to use all my creative to make the students understand what I was trying to say, I used games, songs, drawing, even performances with the kids, sometimes I also need the collaboration and help of any of the two teachers that knew English so they help me to translate something specific to the students or teach together some classes.

I had an awesome time at the school with the teachers , the students, and all the people from the village, I felt that I was home far from home, I joined all the activities of the school as sport day, Loy Kratong day, school trips, boy scout days, I also learned a little bit of the Thai language, the cultural experience was incredible I learned so much from all the people, their lifestyle, their religion, beliefs, traditions, food, values and so many things at the school to as the educational system that they follow, the life of the kids and their families, I learned to be more patient, and my perspective in so many aspects changed completely and that is something that I will keep in my mind for the rest of my life.

I really hope to come back someday somehow to visit my students, and all the wonderful family that I left at Pong Tawee School. It was one of the best experiences in my life and I felt so thankful and blessed for having an opportunity like this that helped me to grow so much as a person. Thank you so much Child's Dream Foundation for make it possible!



