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Host Family story – S & S

“ It really is a privilege to meet such interesting people, be a part of their new beginning.”

We answered GCC publicity campaign around 2016/17 and we were assessed with our first young person arriving in May 2018.

We have had three young people, all young asylum seekers, each so very different; origins, culture but especially personality.

Sometimes it's just getting on with life, being a family / household. Not just accommodating but accommodating, having time, having fun together.

Sometimes it's an absorbing job – being there for someone, imaginative learning opportunities, balancing safety and autonomy.

The Experience is Challenging – and full of contradictions

We found giving a home to a young person most challenging at the beginning and each time life settled into a more relaxed pattern after 3-6 months.

You have a lonely, frightened, confused young person in your home and at the same time they are old enough and world-wise enough not to want you presuming to tell them what's what.

The greatest challenge is that you don't know what's happening – but you are responsible “I'll be staying with my friend tonight”.

You are part of a team and that is a great advantage over just getting on with things. (insights on culture, resources available, a sympathetic sounding board for concerns and ideas - but Your home life happens in public, your decisions are open to question.)

The Experience is Rewarding

We want to make a difference: Hostile Environment/Globalized capitol.

We were anxious/excited about taking on the new challenge and we hoped our life experience would equip us but the truth is we are not experts, we are

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still learning – it's not about teaching a young person to live our way, them learning to live our way, but about us learning to live together

So nice to share interests, to rediscover old joys (stories, rock pools ...
We're glad we build in time to talk, (relaxed silence says a lot).

Get insights of another life and have our values & prejudices questioned.

To share in someone's success – Young people are growing, developing, achieving.

Conclusion

We found that it's not a not a hard job but it's constant and Long-Term.

We found it better to be curious. It really is a privilege to meet such interesting people, be a part of their new beginning.

We work as part of a team and we have learnt to use that resource. We keep learning and adapting, just as the young people are adapting.

Take it easy – it's not about us, it's their life, their development, their pace.

Relax, let the irritations go and soak up the joys of their success, the bonuses are intense -their thoughtfulness and affection.

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