

ANNA ROSSI

AU PAIR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION - 2017

ANNA'S ADVENTURE

Adventure in America

Anna came to the United States for the first time when she joined our family in January 2016. We had just moved from California to Washington DC six months prior and both of us were working long hours. I was in a new job at the Pentagon on the Joint Staff, and Mike, assigned to his engineering and construction company's office in Alexandria, VA. Although his office was close, he often had to travel to the west coast for ongoing project meetings. We really needed Anna's help taking care of Stanley immediately, but we got more than just help -- Stanley gained a true big sister, and we gained a family member and a friend.

Anna arrived in January and made an overwhelming positive impact on our family immediately. Because of a

record snow storm that hit Washington DC, Mike was stranded in California for five days, and all the kids were out of school for a week, but I had to keep working. Thankfully for us, Anna was up to the task! She helped to shovel snow and clear paths, all the while making the



experience so much for Stanley- snowball fights, snowmen, snowangels, hot chocolate, and of course a huge smile and positive attitude the whole time!

KINDNESS, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT

Anna initially came for one year, but we knew quickly that we wanted to ask her to stay a 2nd year. We didn't know it at the time, but soon into our second year with Anna, we learned that I would need to deploy to Afghanistan for a year with the Army. Anna is such a kind, dedicated and committed professional and while I am deployed I know that she is making sure Stanley is watched over and hugged often.



December 15, 2017

Over the last two years Anna truly made her time in America an adventure. She had always dreamed of traveling and this was her time to see it all - art, architecture, meeting people and dreaming. She saved her money and made every day count; arranging trips to Miami, Florida, the Bahamas, the high desert terrain and mountains in New Mexico, New York City, Niagara Falls, the Shenandoah Valley, Death Valley & Yosemite, the California Coast, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Chicago and New Orleans. We also travelled as a family to Minnesota, Wyoming, and Utah. Anna learned to ski, ice skate, tried water skiing and *REALLY* took to running. She led her au pair group in motivation as she held the US flag high and cheered on crowds of runners for hours at the Marine Corps Marathon in DC and volunteered to work a water point for the New York City marathon that her Au Pair counselor, Joana Godinho was running for the very first time. Anna started her own training regime and started running while Stanley

was at school. She began with the Air Force – Navy Five Milers and worked her way up to successfully completing a Half Marathon!! Although when Anna arrived she wasn't confident in her English speaking skills, she was committed to learning, and getting the most out of her experience. She worked



extremely hard at her English and business classes at the Northern Virginia Community College and improved quickly. She also took the time to teach Stanley Italian. He learned to count, converse and name animals easily under Anna's instruction. Anna was extremely reliable; knowing that we had busy work schedules, she made sure Stanley got to school, soccer, hockey, Catechism and took

the time to make play dates with his friends. The neighborhood also quickly grew to know and love Anna and often invited her to do things with them and their families. She also reached out and helped several other au pairs who weren't bonded with their host family or who were experiencing homesickness. Anna is extremely close to her Mom and sister. Anna's father passed away from a heart condition while running when she was just a young teenager, around 13. She knew that being away from home for the first time was going to be hard and she missed her mother and sister terribly, but it was her dream to see the world and go to America. She will always miss her father, but knows how proud he is of her having the courage to run after the things she wants and make life an adventure!

