



The Papavassiliou Family of California

Nominated by Aikaterini S. of Greece

I could write a whole book for my beautiful host family.

My host family, Papavassiliou, Sophia, Vassilis, Anna, Panagiotis and Argyri is the best family that I could ever wish and ask for.

Our "story" started back in Greece, where we are both from, by having a family dinner together during the past summer. Since the moment that we decided that we're going to be a match for the au pair program we were talking on the phone often and having videocalls with the kids.

While preparing for my arrival Sophia asked me a lot of personal information so she could make my arrival and my staying here as more as pleasant and easy as she could.

I was so excited!

The day I arrived, I had such a warm welcome! Kids had made me beautiful drawings and brought me flowers.

From the first days in the US, me and the family had beautiful walks in the near area of the house, in the parks, in Berkeley university and in the big city of San Francisco.

From the first minute I arrived they were trying to make me feel comfortable and like home.

Since I arrived 4 days before Halloween, these days were full of activities! They introduced me to the celebration of Halloween and the whole procedure of celebrating. It was so much fun! At the day of Halloween we wore matching costumes as a family, that were handmade by us and we were for trick or treating.

More celebrations were coming up, as Thanksgiving and Christmas. We had such a wonderful time, since the family follows up all the traditional approaches. We had a wonderful family dinner at Thanksgiving, we discussed about what were thankful for and at Christmas we had a huge company of friends that accompanied us for the Christmas carols in the neighborhood.

My life with my host family is amazing! Almost every day we go somewhere new. Their first concern is for me to explore and travel as most as I can, either with them or by myself. They want me to gain new experiences and they come across it in the best way.

Till now we've traveled a lot in California, at beautiful parks, beaches etc and also at Disneyland!

Every day with Papavassiliou family is a blessing! I'm so grateful for the chance that's given me to live here with them. They considering me a part of their family from the first moment and they include me in all of their activities and travels.

They want me to be happy here so they recommend and introduce me new places to explore by myself during the weekends.

Even the kids school is an adventure for me, because they're forest schools, something total different of what that I'm used to in Greece.

Im so thankful having such a great family, providing me all that experiences and chances to meet and getting to know US better!

Thank you Papavassiliou family for the opportunities, the love, the caring and all the happy times together!!

I love you! 