

Giessen Community 2014 Christmas Party

Giessen, Germany, 14. December 2014

The Giessen families, together with many students and guests, met together in the UPF premises to celebrate their traditional Christmas party.



The community center was beautifully adorned with Christmas decorations, and everybody felt very comfortable and at home. Guglielmo and Azucena Figus, currently studying in Giessen, were the MCs who guided us through the programme.



There were musical contributions from all age groups. The youth performed in groups and singly; the youngest performer was Amy Zimmermann, aged 5. At the other end of the age spectrum was our 'Oldies Band' (members 50 or 60 plus!) performing songs from the Beatles and Karat. Brigitte Makkonen recited a poem.

The overview of the year, presented by Christian Claus, was very interesting. We could really see just how many activities and events had taken place over the past year.

Mention was made of the many projects that the community had supported, including a school in the Dominican Republic, founded by family Wiesner. And just recently an Ambassador for peace, Mr. Czernov from Ukraine, was able to send donations to his homeland with the help of our community.



Joni Makkonen's report about the activities of CARP/HARP and Youth UPF was inspiring, and the cooperation between our young people and their University friends is especially hopeful. For example, Youth UPF worked together with a group of UNICEF students to bake cookies which were then sold to raise funds. This was referred to as a 'UPICEF-event'.

After coffee and cake, 4 people were recognized for 40 years of membership of our organization:

- Gottfried Tuchecker
- Setsuko Wöllmer
- Sarah Zimmerman
- Pablo de la Pena (in his absence)

Each was introduced with a short power-point presentation, with their favourite music playing in the background. They were then presented with a certificate of recognition by Fritz and Hilde Piepenberg and our community leaders, Christian and Glenys Claus.

A photo session with Yara Makkonen, a talented young photographer was available at the end of the programme. This was a lot of fun.

All in all this was a successful party and I feel proud to belong to our community

Rosemarie Leja

