

Dear members of the Blind River Rotary Club!

I hope you are all doing well. It's been a while since I talked to you or seen you. It should be three years now since that summer, when I came to Blind River for a short visit and had the chance to see few of you. Since then many things have happened in my life. I completed a year-long internship in a big German company Continental as part of my year abroad. The town in which I stayed, Regensburg, was amazing and I made many friends, gained new experiences and could improve my German a lot. After that, last summer, I spent three months in the South of France (in Cannes), doing a little summer job at a medical practice of a very nice Rotarian, as well as worked part-time at a shoe shop. Not the fanciest job, I know, but for someone who only learned French for two years, quite a challenge. But I loved it there so much! I spoke lots of French, ate the most amazing baguette and drank the best wine! Not even mentioning the wonderful sea! Oh, Côte d'Azur! Anyway, I also got to meet lots of very nice Rotarians, as well as Rotaractors. (I've been part of our University-based Rotaract Club for 3 years now too).

Finally, after such a great summer I returned to Manchester, England, to finish my Bachelor degree in Politics & German. It was again a

challenging year full of hard work and determination, but it paid off. I graduated this July with a First Class (that's the very best note in the UK's Higher Education Grading System). Now I'm working back in Germany for 3 months, but returning back to Slovakia for about 4 days in September, and after that flying back to Manchester to start my masters. I will be doing MSc in International Business & Management at The Alliance Manchester Business School, with a finish in Sept. 2018. I'm already very excited for that. 😊 Although it's also quite sad because soon I will have to give up student life and start living a proper adult life. Not sure whether I'm gonna like that 😊.

Anyways, I thought I would send you this letter with a few photos from my graduation and let you know what I've been up to in the recent years. 😊 This way I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you. Without Rotary I wouldn't be here, where I'm now. My stay in Canada was, thanks Rotary, an unforgettable experience that developed me as a person in such a great way. It made me open to others, other cultures, nations, countries, people. More tolerant, social and understanding. In fact it gave me much more. Thank you for being part of this important life event of mine.

I hope to see you one day again.

Best regards, *Natalia* ♥
(Your RYE student from Slovakia 😊)

2011-2012