

More Stories

I remember a 16-year-old young man who was learning English from our volunteers. He requested to accompany me on a run to the bus station to “check out the lay of the land”. His ticket had been explained to him, but he had a question I could not answer. So, at the bus station, the question was answered. While at the station, he proceeded to explain bus tickets to other asylum seekers who did not understand their tickets. He had the advantage of speaking fluent Spanish. After the others were on the bus, we returned to the shelter. On the way back to The Inn, he charmed us by singing along with the Spanish radio station in a beautiful tenor voice.

Then there was a lively six-year-old girl from Brazil where they speak Portuguese, thus rendering my limited Spanish somewhat useless. She was undeterred. In the two afternoons we spent together, she talked continuously to me and somehow, I figured out that she wanted the jump rope, more balloons, a pencil sharpener, something to drink.

Every day that I volunteered I had the honor of meeting new guests, learning about their culture and sharing a brief time in their life. The takeaway for me was how grateful they are for the smallest things, and how many things we take for granted that they are amazed at.

“It is not necessary to do great things, only small things with great love.” Mother Teresa