



Young Americans show commitment in Bad Godesberg

Bad Godesberg. Planting, painting, cleaning up: Students of the Bonn-based Academy for International Education thank us with a charity campaign. Cultural exchange is important.

By Elena Kuss, 16.04.2018

For the fifth time, 75 US students of the Academy for International Education thanked the people of Bonn for their hospitality with a charity campaign in various institutions in Bonn.

This time the students were involved in the voluntary fire brigade Bonn-Mitte, in the central depot for donations at Vorgebirgsstraße, in the Grüne Spielstadt at Meßdorfer Feld, in the senior citizens' home Haus am Redoutenpark and in the neighbourhood garden Pennenfeld of Vebowag.

"Everything that takes place more than once in the Rhineland is already a tradition," said Cornelia Nicolaus, head of the social service of the retirement home. Here the students took on the garden of the retirement home. Among other things, this time flower boxes were to be planted, which the inhabitants would later take care of. "The roses in the garden are still from the first charity event," said Nicolaus, while proudly showing the new students the work of their forerunners.

Painting chairs, planting flower boxes

"Besides the charity idea, cultural exchange is very important to us," explained Johanna Moster, student assistant at AIB. The Academy is a non-profit higher education institution in Bonn with a focus on study programmes for international scientific institutions. While the volunteers repainted chairs and planted flower boxes, the residents watched with interest. "Not so many, but some residents speak English and are looking forward to refreshing their knowledge," Nicolaus explained.

The 75 AIB students were distributed among the various projects. "With that good weather, of course, the Godesberg gardening projects were very popular," revealed Maximilian Gillert, also a student assistant at the AIB. The students have been in Germany for one semester and were able to complete their studies at the academy. "The students are in their final weeks before going home," said Gillert.

The idea for the charity campaign came from students at Texas A&M University in College Station. In their Texan home there has been such a day of communal action for many years, in which numerous students are committed to the community. On Sunday, some of the AIB students also ran the Bonn Marathon to raise money for an educational institution for children in Southern Sudan.

About 400 students from the USA come to Bonn every year via the Academy for International Education. Clients and cooperation partners include renowned American universities such as Pennsylvania State University, Texas A&M University, and Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. Students stay in Bonn for between three weeks and one semester and usually live with host families.