

SUMMER ABROAD IN MOROCCO



 Kenitra, Morocco

This summer I traveled to Morocco through the support of the Jennings award, where I volunteered at the Centre Socio Sportif in Kenitra. As their very first English teacher, I worked with youth in Bir Rami, a developing neighborhood where the center is just beginning its mission. The students I taught ranged from children excelling in their studies to others who could not attend school at all and had to work to support their families. Designing lessons for such a wide spectrum of learners taught me how to adapt quickly, use creativity to spark engagement, and make learning accessible for everyone.

During my time in Kenitra, I lived with a lovely host family who welcomed me as one of their own. This gave me a meaningful window into Moroccan daily life and values, from sharing meals to celebrating traditions. I also improved my French fluency and began learning Arabic, since in many situations English alone was not enough to communicate. These language skills deepened my connection with the community and gave me insight into how cultural exchange works in practice.

Beyond teaching, I contributed to the center's larger mission of building opportunity in Bir Rami. The Centre Socio Sportif, only in its first year of operation, showed me how grassroots organizations can create transformative spaces for young people, even with limited resources. I saw firsthand the power of education and mentorship to bridge divides and open doors.

The Jennings award made this experience possible. It allowed me not only to share knowledge but also to learn about language, culture, resilience, and community. My time in Morocco affirmed my belief that building bridges across cultures begins with listening, empathy, and shared learning.

