

September 12, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am happy to write a letter of reference for Mrs. Annie Evans, who cooked for our excavation team in Greece during the summer of 2008. Our Greek-American team was working at the Sanctuary of Zeus on Mt. Lykaion in the Peloponnese for six weeks. We lived in two villages up in the mountains called Ano Karyes and Kastanochori, which are about 25- 30 minutes from the closest town of Megalopolis. We were a group of about 35 people working on the project, but sometimes we reached as many as 50 people. Annie Evans cooked for us the entire period, preparing three meals a day, six days a week. Her husband, Ian Evans, was our household manager, but also helped Annie with various tasks, including breakfast preparation and food shopping.

Annie is a very pleasant, warm, friendly woman, with whom we spent essentially every day of the week over the course of the season. She was a very capable cook, and could navigate her way around any supermarket, farmers' market, butchers, or green-grocers in any town or in any country. Language seemed to be no barrier for her. She also had a knack for knowing how much food to buy and prepare for a large group of hungry archaeologists. Annie had no problem mastering the logistics of shopping for our big team, which was no small feat, since our village was nowhere near the closest town of Megalopolis, where she and Ian shopped about three times a week.

Annie also showed herself to be a thoughtful cook, remembering who had a food allergy, who was a vegetarian, who could have no dairy, etc. and making accommodations in her preparations for these people. She was good at directing the students who helped her as well, and they seemed to enjoy her company.

I was impressed with how meticulous Annie was in keeping track of her expenditures and providing us with detailed accounts. She was also very careful in her spending habits and tried to keep us on a reasonable budget.

The conditions where Annie cooked were less than ideal, but she managed very well. In addition to being far from the nearest town, the kitchen to which we had access in the village was small, and at first we did not have an oven for her to use. She managed very well on a small stove with three gas burners for the first couple of weeks. Annie did not complain, she just got to work and starting cooking up a storm. But once the oven came, she expanded her repertoire. Many of us really appreciated the homemade cakes that started to appear for desert!

In sum, I can say that Annie Evans is a very capable cook and eager to be helpful. Her warm, friendly manner was noted by all of us. It is no small feat to cook for so many



people near the top of a mountain in Arcadia, with limited facilities, but she did it. Thank you, Annie, for all you did for us!

Sincerely,

May E. Vignati