

# Thank you friends!

Phase 1 of DRBI accommodations upgrade complete!



Dear friends,

Several months ago, we appealed to you for help upgrading some of our accommodations. This was in preparation for re-opening and also to make them ready to list as short-term rentals. You responded generously with direct contributions, and by donating items from our [Amazon wishlist](#).

A bunch of us worked hard to clean, repair, re-paint, scour local thrift stores, assemble new furniture, and install new curtains, bedding etc. At last, we were able to list our first four new public rentals. You can see the listings here:

<https://bit.ly/drbi-rentals>

### ***You might be wondering, why short-term rental?***

The big idea is to find a way to use our excess accommodations to help make Desert Rose more self-sufficient -- while still leaving those accommodations available to us for our own events. This approach has an additional benefit of bringing hundreds of non-Bahá'ís onto our campus each year to experience our legendary Bahá'í hospitality.

But also, in the long run, accommodations are very expensive to build and maintain. So, if we find a way to make our accommodations net revenue-positive, then we have struck gold -- because that is a path of growth!

Just imagine what it will look like when we are successful in our mission: we will have an **arts program** teaching ceramic tile-making, an **agriculture program** teaching permaculture gardening, as well as a Bahá'í program exploring our core literature such as the *Dawn-Breakers*. So even with modest participation, we will need accommodations for at least *40 participants* as well as for volunteers and staff. We can certainly make this happen -- so long as our accommodations fund themselves.

### ***So, what is the next step?***

We've completed the first phase: minimal upgrade of our four apartments. Our next big task is to **upgrade our five remaining unused accommodations** during this summer. That includes our four studios and Marguerite Sears' cottage. So far we've received a bit over half of

the total required furnishing and supplies from the [Amazon wishlist](#). So, please continue to pick off items from the list whenever you can, and periodically share our Wishlist with friends:

<https://amzn.to/34VGwrv>

Or consider a direct donation -- as we constantly need to buy supplies from Home Depot for painting and repairs. By now, we have several thrift stores in the area who know us by name.

<https://drbi.org/contribute-donate-funds>

**We also need volunteers with trade skills.** Especially anyone with **carpentry** or **electrician** experience. A bunch of our beautiful wooden doors are crying out in pain from Arizona sun damage and Marguerite Sears' cottage needs refinishing of the kitchen cabinets and rewiring of all the lighting.

Also, **we still need an old work truck!** If anyone has an old reliable Ford F-150 or similar, it would be a great help around here.

*And just one more really big favor we need to ask!*

**Come visit us!** The best way for us to kick off this little project is for you to come and stay at our rentals, give us great hospitality advice, help us work out the kinks in our process, consult with us about future plans, **and give us five-star reviews!!**

**So book a visit to Desert Rose** right away, before it gets too hot. As an Alaskan, I can assure you the "desert" part is no joke!

<https://bit.ly/drbi-rentals>

Thank you again for supporting this project. We're working hard to stretch the value of every penny we receive.

Warm regards,

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