

**2018 June 4**

Ocate Cliffs family,

In case you were thinking of NOT coming to Ocate Cliffs in your lifetime, consider this: Our local alpaca ranch is going to donate some alpacas to us! I'll let one of them explain in their own words:



**Take  
care of  
me!**

The alpaca pictured is not the actual one that's coming, but they are all equally lovely! If you know someone for whom fluffiness is part of their dream job, let them know we are looking for someone to take care of them.

In other news, we have resumed drywall and plaster work with the help of some professionals, and getting into summer work-retreat mode. The retreat is full, with people coming from South Korea, UK, Russia, and 5 different US states. The next month is going to be the busiest of the year.

New Mexico has some wildfires in progress, not so far away. Please hold the fire fighters in your thoughts and let's hope for rain.

In service,  
Star, Program Manager

## 2018 August 27

Ocate Cliffs family,

In June we had a fun and productive retreat - people from a few countries worked together, cooked for each other, and had games, discussions, hikes, and sleeping under the stars.



Some of the projects done at the retreat were: \* shower tile \* park trail \* deck \* balcony floor and railing \* barn hay loft \* wood floor \* paint \* rock steps \* wood shed \* fencing

One of the experimental features of Ocate Cliffs is finding out whether autistic and non-autistic people can collaborate without sidelining the autistic ones. It is a widespread problem in disability-focused organizations, and it wasn't obvious when this started if it would be possible to keep the balance. I feel we have done really well with that, and I think having cultural diversity that comes with international volunteers helps.

The staff house is getting towards the end of construction and has maybe 8-12 days left of work needed before we escape the constant dust and tools! Consider coming to help with that if you can.

In service,  
Star, Program Manager