

To Whom It May Concern:

Airbnb

My story is unique. I live in a 3 story Victorian in the University district in Denver and with 4 empty rooms and a love of entertaining, I decided 2 and half years ago to try being an Airbnb host. It took some courage, as how do you know who is coming to your home? Is it safe? What happens if you don't want someone in your home anymore? There were many unknowns but with a desire to earn some extra money, I thought I would give it a try.

Monetarily, Airbnb has helped me pay for the upkeep on a very old (1889) home that needs constant work and maintenance. New roof, removal of 2 ninety year old trees, and retiling of 2 bathrooms are just a few of the things I have been able to do. On top of that, I have medical expenses that are definitely offset by the revenue I generate from my Airbnb. Economically, it has been a critical part of maintaining my home and affording my medication.

For me, however, the real benefit comes from my guests. I have hosted people from all over the world. When in my home, each and every guest is treated as a member of the family. Sunday dinners every week join us together which helps create a sense of community within my home. I normally do not have more than 2 guests at a time to minimize the impact on my home, but sometimes I have 3 depending on who is currently staying with me. I tend to attract long term rentals of professionals and University employees and this is what I have grown to prefer. They provide stability and rhythm and a good flow of income! Besides that, they enrich our lives, and in turn, I serve to enrich theirs. Among the things I have done for my guests are:

- Connected a new business owner to the a oil and gas community in Denver as it pertained to his new business
- Connected guests to lawyers and bankers to facilitate business transactions
- Connected an Italian guest to other Italians in the Denver community that I do business with
- The aforementioned Italian guest met my new college grad son and gave him his first job in an engineering firm. This has enabled my son to buy a house nearby and is now a productive member of society!
- Restaurants in my area benefit from my recommendations – there is no need to rely on websites and travel logs for the best dining out – I can do that for them. This results in my guests trying places they would probably not otherwise find out about.
- Taken guests to cultural events and encourage those moving to the city to participate fully in the music, theater, art and dining readily available.
- Help guests to navigate the city efficiently and safely – all have fallen in love with the many options available in Denver
- Facilitated skiing trips for my skiing guests. I often have neighbors that go skiing and will take someone else with them, and I have had one guest stay with us on a ski weekend.

These are just a few examples of how I have connected my guests into the Denver community and beyond. My neighborhood and surrounding environs has reaped the benefits of my guests' spending money at local businesses that would not normally see their revenue dollars. This is a win/win for everyone involved.

As for safety, there has never been an issue. People who partake in the sharing economy are looking for connection beyond the ubiquitous institutional travel models available. We all share a common bond of enjoying the company of others, meeting new people, sharing the love our city with other travelers and connecting them into the community in a way they wouldn't be able to otherwise do. Airbnb guests and hosts are carefully vetted and I read every review of my incoming guests. My guests must have certain criteria and verifications in order to stay with me, and on their end, they have access to all my reviews. By the time I have accepted someone as a guest, I have a pretty good idea of what to expect. There is always the odd duck, or quirky personality but that is what makes it more interesting for me. I have never felt threatened or unsafe and if I did, customer service is very responsive. I have had times when I needed to talk with someone immediately and they are right there for me.

I can't deny the revenue I generate contributes greatly to my life – my home and medication are just a few things it helps me with. But at the end of the day, it is about the connections I have made and those I have facilitated. I have remained good friends with a number of my guests and continue to invite them to my home for parties and holidays. The sharing economy goes beyond just mere money, it connects us as people and allows us to grow and expand our network of friends, business partners and fellow travelers. I am passionate about my business and take it very seriously and I can't imagine not being able to do it. I am constantly working to make my guests experience better which in turn enhances the quality of my guests coming into my home. I am recognized for the efforts I make on their behalf and I enjoy every minute of it!