
The Staff Who Make It Happen

1 message

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Wed, Oct 22, 2025 at 1:42 PM



I arrived back on the land this past weekend after a short hiking trip to Cedar Mesa, Utah, with my husband, Patrick. The staff has been preparing for more than ninety Naropa students arriving tomorrow for their Mindfulness-Based Transpersonal Counseling retreat. When I walked into the dining room, several staff and volunteers were at lunch. Rather than stress or fatigue, I felt warmth, kindness, and ease in the community.

Our staff are the living heartbeat of Drala Mountain Center—caring for retreatants, preparing nourishing meals, maintaining our facilities and trails, and creating the conditions for others to meditate and awaken. Their dedication embodies the spirit of service that sustains this land. This is what It's Up to Us truly means.

As we continue our campaign, I invite you to make a gift—or become a Monthly Member—in honor of the people who make this place come alive every single day. As a gesture of gratitude, monthly donors giving \$50 or more will receive a 10% discount on all programs in 2025 and 2026—an invitation to return again and again to the land you help sustain.

Thank you to everyone who has already given or joined as a member. Your generosity provides the resources and support that allow our staff to live and

serve here—ensuring that thousands can experience the Dharma in a protected and sacred environment.

Robbie Rettmer
Executive Director

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Meet the People Behind the Practice

So that you can get to know some of the people who make this possible, we've included a few short interviews with members of our team—beginning with Chase Usry, our Deputy Director.

We asked Chase what the one thing he wanted everyone to know about Drala Mountain Center would be, here's what he said:



We also want to celebrate the members of our Nourishment Team: the chefs who have already prepared more than 26k individual meals this year.

Thank you to the whole Nourishment Team!



We've also done short interviews with a couple other staff members to give you a window into the different perspectives here on land. You'll see those interviews in the coming weeks. So far we've talked with Housekeeping Manager Megan, and Programs Manager Alena.

Both of these incredible staff members have been instrumental in the successes of 2025 for Drala Mountain Center. Each of them played a key role in our retreats and creating incredible contemplative containers and maintaining the wellbeing of the land.

We'll also be looking for more opportunities to talk to our staff and volunteer crew to bring even more Drala perspectives to the fore.

We can't wait for you to hear what they have to say!

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Taking On a Plumbing Challenge - and Succeeding!

2025 has been a year filled with change, adventure, improvement and, of course, contemplation here at Drala Mountain Center. One of the biggest moments of challenge, change, and success, has been repairing an aging plumbing system that had seen better days.

Fortunately, our skilled Facilities crew, with the help of a new excavator and clear vision for what we could make happen, was able to work a repair and get our Karma Bathhouse back up and operational.

Wes Farrell, our Director of Facilities has been instrumental in making this happen. But volunteers Bhav and Nicky, crew members JP, Johnny, Jim, and Tim, Deputy Director Chase, and long-time volunteer and Drala resident Dickie have all made huge contributions.

Of course, having the excavator, in combination with the skills, expertise, and determination of our Facilities crew is more impactful than one plumbing project. The excavator opens a world of new possibilities for sustainability, infrastructure updates, and land stewardship for Drala Mountain Center. Read more about the project, what it means for the future, and how we might be using the excavator in 2026 and beyond in [our latest blog](#).

We are lucky to have such a dedicated staff serving our guests everyday. We hope you will support our efforts to thrive.



Drala Mountain Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization dedicated to expanding awareness, reducing individual and societal suffering, and promoting peace through strategic programming and education focused on mindfulness, social impact issues, and eco-dharma concerns.

Please consider a one-time or monthly donation today to help us sustain our sacred land for generations to come.

MAKE A DONATION

Need help? Email frontdesk@dralamountain.org or call us at (970) 881-2184.

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