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To whom it may concern,

Steven Kalina and Zoe Shepard stayed on our small homestead here outside of Marysville, WA for about a year. The experience was a positive one. They helped out a lot on our property during their stay. They were open communicators, had integrity, and they were honest in all of our dealings. Most importantly they were very low key, had no drama, and were easy going tenants.

Initially our agreement was just paid rent month to month to stay. Sometime later they asked to explore the idea of working around the property in exchange for rent. I was open to it. I knew they could help take some of the stress off of our property maintenance. Plus, I could use help to offset several burdens for projects I wanted to do, but was getting behind on due to my busy work schedule and my family life.

I believe any working relationship is built on managing expectations and timelines which is good advice for any situation. Steven took instruction well and enjoyed clarity and specifics given to him about my tasks. He met my expectations, and took responsibility if he made a mistake. He brought enthusiasm to my ideas and added his creative skills, so we all were working smarter not just harder.

Steven & Kalina helped strip and paint our house, and shed, helped with digging a foundation for a stone inlay firepit , organized my entire collection of building materials and made tidy my shop areas, mowed the property and cut back blackberries and tree limbs, pressure washed & cleaned an old trailer making it look new. Steven also helped me build a custom chicken coop & several raised garden beds as well.

The Shepards took great care to guard our property and care for pets while we were away on trips. Kalina and Zoe took well to tending and caring for our chickens. Also, Zoe enjoyed being with our daughter and was often involved in playful learning together.

Steven & Kalina have a knack for finding, cleaning up and selling things of value. During their stay they managed to find a laser miter saw in need of small repairs that has ended up becoming one of my most valuable tools replacing a very old and weathered one of mine on its last legs. I am stubborn and reluctant to replace tools, Steven saw this about me and went out of his way to support what I needed without asking.

I can confidently recommend them for anyone else who might enjoy having a good trustworthy family to work and stay on their property or homestead. If you have any questions feel free to call me.

Sincerely,



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