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Family of 17 Loses Home

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Mary Fast Wolf said she will keep her family together at any cost.

Even after a fire destroyed her home Tuesday night and threatens to scatter her children to the kindness of well-meaning friends and strangers, she said she didn't want them to separate.

"Somebody asked me, would like to send some of your children over here and put some over here? I said no we're a family we stay together," Fast Wolf said.

She said family is important to her and her eight boys and seven girls were all adopted.

She said they all spent time in foster care and were moved around until they came to her.

"I'm not a foster parent, I'm an adoptive parent," said Fast Wolf.

She did foster some children in her 43 years of opening her home to children.

Many organizations inspired by her generosity helped her over the years she said, even by adding on to the house.

Mission of Love, a charity organization that helps families in need, built her living room.

Wednesday, several of her girls and Fast Wolf scoured the still smoldering wreckage to see if there is anything they might salvage.

The toll of what they have lost already is pretty high: social security cards, birth certificates, and medical information.

They also lost their beloved pet guinea pig Nibbles, but their cats, dog and goat survived.

Many of them felt agreed on what they want to do next.

"Be able to rebuild the house and make new memories," said Patty Buxton, one of the adopted daughters.

Mary said staying together is what will bring them through this challenge.

"If I have to live in a tent out here I will, you know, with my children," she said.



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