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Family struggles to rebuild home destroyed by fire

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Rachael Embler

For Mary Fast Wolf, next Monday will bring a new beginning for a family unsettled by fire.

Mary and her fifteen foster children will move into their new home.

"I feel so good," said Fast Wolf.

Three weeks ago the Fast Wolf family lost their home to a fire and mission of love donated goods like toys, furniture and beds but the family still needs more help, and Mary Fast Wolf said they'd take all the help they can get.

In the days immediately following the fire, Fast Wolf said plenty of people offered help.

But, when the time came to start the real work of rebuilding she said there were faces missing.

Her community let her down.

"I found out who my true friends are, and they're not my friends no more," Fast Wolf said.

All the more reason, she said, to be thankful for the people who did help, like her family and a local business owner who donated money.

Her new home will have six bedrooms and four bathrooms for the family, but she said there is still more they need.

"We're going to have to have help with our sewer and we're going to have to have help with our septic tank," Fast Wolf said.

Kathleen Price the founder of Mission of Love, a charity organization, said they can only do so much.

Price, also the director of Mission of Love, said she's been to third-world countries that have shown more community involvement than she's seen here.

"You know, here we come 1,300 miles with 38,000 pounds of aid and I haven't seen many people in this area or in Rapid City come and join our hands to make that difference and shame on them," she said.

Price said she assists native building projects all over the world, and she says that family and community are the most important when it comes to home building.

She said that she has something to say to this community.

"I'm not here to judge, I'm just here to let them know they have a great opportunity to make a difference in someone's life and they need to think about it and cash in on it because they're going to benefit from helping others," she said.

Mission of Love is accepting donations of labor, building supplies, and cash donations to help the Fast Wolfs.

You can contact Kathleen Price at **330-720-0278**, to see how you can help.



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