

The McKenzie Home at Washington Square
Mission Statement, Purpose, and Plan
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Mission Statement: The McKenzie Home at Washington Square

The mission of The McKenzie Home at Washington Square is to provide single moms the resources, skills, and support needed to enable them to become successful parents and contributing community members.

Purpose: Women who find themselves as a single parent often fall between the cracks in our society. If they don't need special treatment due to drugs or alcohol, or a safe-house environment, they often feel there is little support or help for them to become strong and independent in their community. Many times, they will turn to unhealthy alternatives putting themselves and their children in jeopardy. The McKenzie Home at Washington Square gives them a safe place to live in a transitional home that provides support and resources so that eventually they can live a healthy life-style and be a productive citizen in their community.

The Plan: The historical Washington Elementary School, built in 1924, still stands in the older part of Green River. For many years it has not been used as a school but a business square for local businesses. In 2019, the building burned and was unable to be occupied. Part of the school was not damaged. The goal is to remodel the undamaged portion and use it as a transitional home for single mothers and their children. The original part of the school that has been severely damaged, would be gutted, saving the original historical exterior of the building, and redesign the interior to include an auditorium, conference area, and office space. Once the original building is re-designed, it will serve the community as a beautiful historical memorial that will continue to serve the community of Green River. The auditorium will be used for recitals, receptions, luncheons, dinners, speakers, etc. The conference room will serve the community as a place for business and organizations to use as a meeting place. The additional office space will provide the community with opportunity to conduct business. All of these uses will bring in money that helps the building to be maintained with little outside financial support. We will accomplish this project through grants, fundraisers, and generous giving of interested parties.

Restoring the Washington Square building will allow The McKenzie Home to:

- Provide a safe transitional home for single mothers
- Support, counsel, and train women on positive parenting skills and how to better become independent citizens
- Preserve a beautiful historical monument to the Green River community
- Utilize the building to serve Green River citizens
- Serve local business and organizations
- Become a self-supporting entity providing local employment
- Represent the state of Wyoming prominently by setting an example for other communities to emulate across the nation.