

## **Mount Hope Assembly of God Grant Proposal**

**Date:** January 30, 2025

**Applicant Organization:** Mount Hope Assembly of God

**Contact Person:** Duane Middleton **Position:** Lead Pastor

**Address:** 550 Penn Lane / Wickenburg Arizona / 85390

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**Phone:** (928) 684-7767 **Email:** duane@mounthopeag.org

**Project Title:** Mount Hope Family Life Center (Gym) - Activities and Accessible Fitness and Nutrition Programs for All Ages: Children, Youth, Adults, and Seniors

**Introduction:** Mount Hope Assembly is a Christian community-focused organization dedicated to serving the spiritual, social, mental and physical needs of people by developing programs and activities for people of all ages. Established in 1926, as Wickenburg Assembly of God, and moving to its present location in 2000, it has always been the vision to have three buildings on the property. One of which is a building dedicated to have a place to make physical fitness and afterschool programs available for everyone, regardless of their age and provided all year round.

- A safe place where children and youth can participate in organized clubs, after school tutoring, a nutritional meal during the school year breaks, as well as during summer break.
- A place where seniors can participate in activities that keep them active.
- A place where families can celebrate milestones in life such as wedding receptions, baby showers, funeral gatherings and celebratory banquets.
- A place where our local Christian School can have their basketball and volleyball games.

### **Problem Statement:**

- Despite the growing awareness of the importance of physical fitness for all ages, many individuals in our community face barriers to accessing quality fitness facilities and programs. These barriers include high membership costs, and limited availability of specialized programs for different age groups and abilities. As a result, many community members are unable to engage in regular physical activity, leading to health disparities and a decline in overall well-being.
- In Arizona, the summer heat limits many from outdoor activities, and an indoor space is the best alternative.
- Many children and youth cannot afford the cost of local sports programs and travel costs related to it. Some have no place to go between the time school releases them and their parents coming home from work.
- Wickenburg, as a community, currently lacks large venues capable of accommodating large groups.

**Project Description:** The proposed project aims to address these challenges by constructing a building that features a standard gym floor size with lines for basketball, volleyball and pickleball. Additionally, the facility will include a commercial kitchen, bathrooms with showers, classrooms and a physical fitness room. These amenities will support the development of various programs and make them more accessible to underserved populations and our church community. The project will include:

1. **Free and Open to the Public** supervised activities by trained, background checked church members who are dedicated to helping the different age groups.
2. **Specialized Programs:** Develop and implement specialized fitness programs for seniors, adults, youth, children, and individuals with disabilities.
3. **Community Outreach:**
  - Conduct outreach initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of physical fitness and the available resources and programs we offer.
  - Host the local public and private school's awards banquets, and fund-raising dinners.

#### **Goals and Objectives:**

- Securing the necessary funds for constructing the building
- Providing a Safe Place for Children and Youth
- Once the building is built, Launch a tutoring program, fitness programs for young and old within the first six months.
- Secure funds for operating expenses, supplies, staffing and equipment.
- Explore the possibility of lunch program during the summer break for kids in need, with USDA Summer Food Service Program or the Arizona Summer Food Service Program.

**Evaluation Plan:** To measure the success of the project, we will use the following evaluation methods:

- Track the number of people served, their name and contact information each quarter to report to the board of directors, and yearly to ongoing investors.
- Monitor attendance and participation rates in specialized programs.
- Collect feedback from participants through written surveys placed in comment box and interviews.

#### **Budget:**

- Total Project Building Budget: \$2.25 Million

**Sustainability:** To ensure the long-term sustainability of the project, we will pursue additional funding opportunities, partnerships with local businesses and organizations, rental for some outside groups and ongoing fundraising efforts such as tournaments and dinners. We are also committed to continuously evaluating and improving our programs to meet the evolving needs of our community.

**Conclusion:** By supporting this project, you will be contributing to the overall health and well-being of our community members, helping to break down barriers to fitness, and promoting a healthier, more active lifestyle for everyone. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to the opportunity to collaborate on this important initiative.

#### **Attachments:**

- Letters of Support
- Elevation and Floorplan **Coming Soon**

**Contact Information:** For any questions or additional information, please contact:

**Duane Middleton** – Lead Pastor/President (928)684-7767 Cell (928)671-0300

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General Contractor – **Jeff Schafer** Construction LLC ROC - #344608 (541) 620-4187

[SCHAFERCONSTRUCTION23@gmail.com](mailto:SCHAFERCONSTRUCTION23@gmail.com)

**Aaron Hadley**

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To whom it may concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Aaron Hadley, and I serve in many roles, Lieutenant with the local police department, the Treasurer for Cops Who Care, and a trustee with Mount Hope Assembly of God. I am writing to request funding support for an exciting and vital project that will make a significant difference in the lives of children, families, and first responders within our community.

We are seeking a grant to build a new church facility with an attached gymnasium that will serve as a multi-purpose space for a wide variety of community services. This new facility will support the mission of Cops Who Care, a program dedicated to supporting children in our community, especially during the critical months between Easter and Christmas. The new gym will provide a space for recreational activities, youth sports, after-school programs, and mentorship opportunities, fostering positive relationships between law enforcement, community members, and the youth we aim to uplift.

In addition to serving as a hub for community development, this new building will serve as a critical resource in times of emergency. The gymnasium could be designed to act as an emergency management center, providing a safe evacuation point for residents during local crises. It will also serve as a resource for the police department, assisting with evacuation coordination, housing displaced families, and supporting Red Cross efforts during emergencies. We envision this facility as an essential location for coordinating reunifications for families, schools, and first responders in the aftermath of incidents, ensuring that our community has a safe and structured space to come together when needed the most.

Beyond these emergency management roles, the gymnasium will provide opportunities for first responders to train in a variety of scenarios, improving our emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities. With this facility, we will create a space where our police officers, fire personnel, and emergency medical responders can conduct drills, safety training, and teamwork exercises that are crucial for keeping our community safe and well-prepared.

This facility will serve as a lasting legacy for the community, not only providing a space for critical services but also fostering a spirit of collaboration, resilience, and community support. We hope that with your help, we can turn this vision into a reality.

Thank you for considering our request.

Respectfully,

Aaron Hadley

**Mrs. Rachel Willis**

Wickenburg High School  
Wickenburg, AZ 85390

1090 South Vulture Mine Road  
928-684-6633



Dear Grant Committee Members,

I am writing in support of Mount Hope Church of Wickenburg's grant application for funding to help build a much-needed gymnasium on their campus. As a high school counselor and teacher in Wickenburg for over 25 years, I have seen firsthand the tremendous impact Pastor Duane Middleton and Mount Hope Church have had on the youth and families in our community.

Throughout my career, Pastor Middleton has been an unwavering support for our local children, continually going above and beyond to help meet their needs. Pastor Duane and Mount Hope Church have hosted numerous events for our high school students, including sports banquets, choir concerts, and awards ceremonies for sports like girls' basketball, football, and wrestling. They consistently step up when our school is in need, providing a space for our kids to come together and celebrate their accomplishments.

Pastor Middleton and I have worked together for years to ensure that local kids are fed during the summer months. Wickenburg is a Title I school serving over 1,000 square miles, and we lack many of the resources that other communities have. Pastor Duane's church has been one of our main distribution centers for food, helping ensure that no child or family goes hungry. His commitment to our kids and families is unwavering, and his heart for the community is evident in everything he does. The proposed gym would fill a critical gap in Wickenburg, providing a safe, accessible space for our youth to engage in physical activities and community-building. Currently, there are no YMCA or Boys and Girls Club facilities in town, and our youth have limited options for organized sports and fitness activities. The addition of a gymnasium with a commercial kitchen, bathrooms, showers, and a fitness room would not only benefit local students but also serve as a valuable resource for the entire community.

Our town lacks public spaces for basic needs such as fitness facilities, recreational programs, or accessible showers. Many families struggle with poverty, and we have no homeless shelters or public facilities that could meet the basic needs of our community members. The proposed gym would be a lifeline to those in need, offering a place where kids and adults alike can stay active, healthy, and connected.

I wholeheartedly believe that this project will serve as a tremendous gift to our town, providing both youth and adults with the resources they need to stay physically fit, fed, and connected. Mount Hope Church, under Pastor Duane's leadership, has already been a cornerstone of support for our community. The gym will be a lasting, tangible legacy that benefits everyone in Wickenburg.

Thank you for considering this important project. I fully support Mount Hope's grant application and hope that you will provide them with the funding they need to make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

Rachel Willis

Wickenburg High School Counselor & Teacher



BG Bratcher

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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter of support for the Mount Hope Assembly of God grant proposal is being written by me as a real estate agent and resident of Wickenburg.

Pastor Duane Middleton, his staff, and church members have played a significant role in our town investing in so many ways in the lives of our residents. It is thrilling that they have a vision for a Family Life Center to significantly increase their role in meeting the needs of our community.

Our town is growing and with this growth there is a substantial need for a place where younger children, youth, adults, and senior adults can access necessary programs for increased mental, physical, and social health.

It thrills me to know that there will be a place run by caring and qualified individuals for after-school tutoring, fitness programs for all ages, nutritional meals when schools are closed, supervised activities, etc., as well as a location where a local Christian school can play their basketball and volleyball games and families can gather for special family gatherings.

The need is great in our growing town. Since the Town does not have the money to build or staff a recreation center, it is such a blessing that the Mount Hope Assembly of God pastor, staff and members have this vision to embrace the challenge of meeting these needs in our community.

I fully support this project and encourage you to provide grant money to help meet the significant needs in our community for improved health and well-being.

Thank you!

BG Bratcher

Mayor, Town of Wickenburg