



TELL US ABOUT YOU "I like to express myself through wearing different hairstyles every day. I can do braids in under 3 minutes." Emma McCoy (12)



It's been a little more than a year since the Marshall Fire.

HERE we are.

The flames are long extinguished, but it's not over yet. Time still moves. New foundations. New neighborhoods. New us. Together, we're recovering.

ONE year later

Marshall Fire recovery allows healing for community

All hope seemed lost a year ago for Dylan Ehrnstrom (10).

When he woke up in the morning on Dec. 31, 2021, the day after the Marshall Fire ravaged Louisville and Superior, his house was destroyed.

The childhood memories gathered throughout all the years were gone. All that was left was a pit and ashes.

"As I left my house the thing I grabbed was my stuffed animal I had from as a child and a blanket from my childhood," he said.

Like hundreds of families in Louisville and Superior, Ehrnstrom found himself changed from the fire.

"I would say I was affected mentally, more than anything," Ehrnstrom said. "My maturity level definitely changed. I'd say it helped me mature through hard times. My recovery from the Marshall Fire has been slow, but I'm still recovering strong."

The Ehrnstroms decided to rebuild their

home and have been living in tight quarters temporarily. However, that has led to some strong bonding experiences.

"Just being around in the same room as my family more often and just being able to be there as a family, as a safe place," Ehrnstrom said. "Plus, after the fire we got a full new arrangement of equipment and beds and couches. Also, a really nice mattress. That's my favorite mattress that I have ever slept on."

In spite of these comforts, pain still lingered for Ehrnstrom.

"Change is very difficult but it's part of life, and you just have to get through it one step at a time," he said.

On the horizon, though, hope lingered for him. His new house—his new home—would be rebuilt sooner than later.

"The rebuild of the house is very important, and it's exciting to see it go fast. I visit my house every chance I get."



"Change is very difficult but is part of LIFE. **YOU** just **HAVE** to get through it *one step at a time.*"
 —Dylan Ehrnstrom

248 building permits issued
30 days to get building permit approved
155 percent of Louisville residents under insured to rebuild homes
49,800 staff members displaced
6 date in January when local business Wayne's Smoke Shack reopened
11 million dollars approved by voters for fire mitigation

what means more to you than EVER?

MY SHOES

"I was really worried about my shoes, I got them for Christmas and I really like them so I took them with me when we were evacuating. They're now my favorite shoes."
 Courtney Shelby (10)



FACEBOOK

"There were a lot of groups out there with people providing tips like suggesting companies to work through. It was just a lot of people helping each other out."
 Maren Holecek (10)

CROCS

"I love the shared experiences we all have and how it's brought us closer together."
 Brek Hoenninger (10)



SWIMMING

"I gained a lot of perspective about what's really important in life. Losing everything made me realize how lucky I am and how important my friends and my family are. Especially the non materialistic things like swimming. It was my one way of being in a normal space. Being in the water just made me feel like everything was fine just for that moment."
 Sierra Crean (12)



GRANDMA'S PHOTOS

"Probably all my pictures with my grandma. She passed away a few years ago. I felt super lucky that I am still able to have these pictures and looking at them I feel super grateful that they were saved."
 Kaitlyn Mestas (10)



GIFT BASKETS

"My young woman's group donated a bunch of stuff to us. They gave us like 10 pounds of candy and each gave us little gift baskets with socks in them. This has helped me just be able to recognize how there's tons of systems of support in our community."
 Lauren Dixon (9)



MY DOG PEPPER

"My family and I thought our dog, Pepper, was going to die in the fire, but she didn't so that was very relieving."
 Catherine Campbell (10)

Fire helps Mia Pierini (11) find new role in family

When Mia Pierini (11) moved into her new house in Louisville in August of 2021, she knew it would be a memorable one. She should know. Pierini has lived in 16 different houses in 16 years.

Four months later, her home was destroyed along with almost everything she had gathered along the way.

"I'm very into memorabilia, and I had a lot of things from all over the place," Pierini said. "A lot of my clothes and pictures were given to me by other people, so it was difficult to lose all of that and no longer have it with me."

Pierini became a support system for her parents as they started moving

forward after the fire.

"It was weird because normally they're the support system for me," she said. "Throughout it all, I've definitely gained a lot of independence and resilience and I've learned I don't need other people to help me."

"Things like scraping my knee don't affect me that much anymore. I know I can bounce back."

Her family is trying to sell their lot, but if it doesn't sell, they are going to try to rebuild. Pierini finds it sometimes grounding to visit her old house and neighborhood, but she really loves her new life in her new house in Superior.

"I kind of feel like a new person," she said. "I feel like I've been able to use humor as a coping mechanism and things like scraping my knee don't affect me that much anymore. I know I can bounce back."



photo by maya raulf

TELL US ABOUT YOU "I mountain bike. I just really really like being healthy, and I want to live a long, good life." Logan Catterfeld (9)

what do you love that's **NEW?**



photo courtesy of josie price

MY CLOTHES

"I would say my clothes because when the fires happened I wasn't even at my house. I was at my grandmas, and I didn't have any clothes except for the ones I was wearing."

Josie Price (10)



photo by maya raulf

Ava Silverman (9) looks forward to rebuild

Just like that, everything she knew was gone. With her house and nearly all of her personal belongings lost in the Marshall Fire, Ava Silverman (9) wondered where she would go from here.

As winter turned into spring, her mindset changed as she started to see growth in the community and learned to start letting go.

"Obviously it's still sad," she said. "But as the days go on I feel it's gotten better. I think the experience has brought the community together and now we're a little bit stronger."

Her family decided they would rebuild their house, which has brought joy to her and her family.

"Rebuilding has made it a lot better," Silverman said "I feel like if we didn't rebuild, it wouldn't be as good, but as of right now I think of it as a cool new house. It's fun to look forward to."

A year later, Silverman still carries the pain of losing her house but realizes what is more important, which helps her cope.

"I should appreciate the value of important items and everything in general," she said. "I still am very lucky to have my family with me safe and sound. And honestly, I'm mostly grateful we were safe."

MY NEW MATTRESS

"Our house got enough smoke damage that we needed to replace the mattresses, and I ended up getting a really nice new one that's super comforting to just end the day with."

Violet Garrard (10)



photo by roxy garrard

LIFE



photo by maya raulf

"I'm more content with whatever happens in my life. Things out of my control and such. I worry less over the little things because I'm grateful for what I have." **Mars Smith (10)**

THE GRASS

"Something new that I love is all the new land growth. I like looking at all the new green grass that is finally coming in."

Grasyn Trobaugh (10)