

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
1 year for first resident to move into rebuilt home
4,800 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)



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)

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)

