

## Help arrives for family after fire

By AMBER HUNT and DAN CORTEZ

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She jerked awake when she heard the boom, just in time to see flames burst through her bedroom window.

In the split second it took LaTarsha Davis and her boyfriend to bolt out of bed, the mattress was already on fire.

And as they hit the living room of their small, one-story house to get her 18-year-old son, the flames were right behind them.

"We just ran," said Davis, 35, her body trembling beneath a thick coat a neighbor lent her as she stood outside the charred shell she once called home. "We heard the boom, and we just jumped."



She lived in the two-bedroom home with Banner, her 18-year-old son and two other children, Raymond Davis, 16, and Mario Crossley, 12. The younger children were not home at the time. "Look at me," Davis said, lifting her pant legs up. "I've only got one sock. This isn't even my coat. I don't know what we'll do."

The family planned to stay Thursday night at a hotel thanks to the southeastern Michigan chapter of the American Red Cross, which arrived on the scene about two hours after the explosion and wrapped a shivering Davis in a blanket.

Hours after losing her home to fire Thursday, Davis was given a home near West Warren and Southfield Freeway to live in with her family rent-free as long as needed to get back on their feet.

The home was a donation from LoanMod.com, a Dearborn-based company with offices in Florida that works to modify loans for homeowners who are facing foreclosure. "We just wanted to help her out," said Moose M. Scheib, Chairman and CEO for LoanMod.com.

The new home is bigger, with three bedrooms, a living room and a dining room, Davis said. "I think there's a basement," she said. "I haven't even had time to check yet."

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