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## Metro Operator, 3 Kids Facing Bleak Holiday after Apartment Fire

- Division 10 co-workers are collecting donations for the family



Gateway Division 10 Bus Operator  
Monique Henson

(Dec. 21, 2006) Metro's Monique Henson and her three children are facing a bleak holiday season this year – they were burned out of their Long Beach apartment earlier this month.

An apparent grease fire in the 158-unit Paradise Garden Apartments, Dec. 8, caused two fatalities and 26 injuries. The fire, which may have traveled through the ventilation system, also caused \$3 million in damages.

Henson, 26, a part-time bus operator at Gateway Division 10, lived in the building with her 6-year-old daughter, Traniquv, and 8-year-old twins, Maliq and Domoniqvc.

The family lost everything – furnishings, clothing, photos, toys and other belongings.

To help out the family, Henson's co-workers at Division 10 are collecting, household goods, Christmas gifts and money.

According to Caroline Howard, a transportation operations supervisor at Division 10, Henson "is basically starting from scratch. She was just thankful that she had her children and they were all unharmed."

Despite the tragedy, the operator has continued to come to work each day, Howard says.

Henson joined Metro as a BDOF operator in August, 2005 and was promoted to part-time operator in May, 2006.

