

STARTING OVER

a photo story
by John W. Adkisson



Billie Jean Greene cries after thinking her two children might be taken by Chatham County Social Services. "There's a lot of times she cries. It makes me sad to see her cry," Shannon Greene, her husband, says. After losing their fourth home in a fire in January, the Greens moved to Chapel Hill searching for refuge. "I've heard her say a few times she felt like giving up," Shannon says. "I just tell her to keep going — we're breathing."



Above: Shannon Greene gets his leg X-rayed at N.C. Memorial Hospital after experiencing a fit of pain. After his motorcycle accident in February 2005, doctors inserted screws and rods to hasten the healing process.

Left: Shannon, Billie Jean, Mitchell and Micheal Greene wait for a Chapel Hill Transit bus on Franklin Street on their way to Wal-Mart. The family depends on the bus to travel to meetings with social services and doctor's appointments.



Reduced weekend routes forced the Greene family to walk to the women's shelter on Saturdays. The Greene family now lives in a duplex in the area.



Shannon and Billie Jean search the remnants of their devastated home in Bear Creek. "Everything we had worked for was all gone," Billie Jean says.



Mitchell moves drawers into his family's new home in Chapel Hill. The family received aid from Joel Duvall, a local real estate agent. "To me he's an angel," Shannon Greene says. "It's very important to me to see that they have a good life from this moment on."