

## **KHADIJAH POOLE-KHATIB – February 2015**

### **Student Translates EMT Lesson into Real Life With Heroic Rescue**

When a man lost control of his car on Redwood Road and crashed into a tree, Khadijah Poole-Khatib had just finished her evening EMT class at Merritt and was heading down the hill. She didn't see the crash happen, but she heard it. Her first instinct was to pull over and help. She joined others who did the same. But no one was aiding the man as he lay unconscious in his car with flames coming from under the hood. Would the car become totally engulfed in flames? Would it blow up?

“No one knew what was going to happen, but I knew that I couldn't sit there and watch a man die,” says Khadijah. “I shouted to anyone to help me and one person finally did. We pulled out the man who was bloody and still unconscious, and within 20 seconds the whole car went up in flames.”

Khadijah took the man's pulse and held his hand until the police and firefighters arrived. She later found out that the man had nearly died.

As for Khadijah, who is a chiropractor in San Leandro and had taken the class to fulfill a lifelong goal, she hardly even told anyone - but the word soon got out. “My family was really proud of me, and my instructor (Demond Simmons) told the class and they all applauded for me,” she says. “I just felt like I did what anyone else would have done.”

*—Susan May*