

The 24th district is represented by Senator Kevin Van De Wege, Representative Mike Chapman, and Representative Steve Tharinger, and spans the far West corner of the state. Data below is for Clallam County and the Port Angeles and Quillayute Valley School Districts.

CHARLES'S STORY

Charles spent most of his career as a welder and machine operator. He had a good paying job earning between \$50,000 and \$70,000 per year, and was able to save \$30,000 for his family's future. However, in 2008 when the financial crisis hit and the stock market crashed, all of their savings disappeared. "I lost \$28,000 in four hours."

In 2009 Charles had surgery on both of his hands due to severe carpal tunnel. A mishap during the procedure changed the anatomy of his hands and caused severe, irreversible nerve damage. Charles can no longer grip or hold anything for more than a few minutes. This new disability resulted in the loss of his job, and he will never again work as a welder or machine operator. The loss of a skilled worker's income, coupled with the loss of their financial safety net left Charles, his wife, and their three children in a desperate situation.

In order to stay in an affordable, stable home, the Bouch family uses a federal Housing Choice voucher to pay their rent while Charles goes back to school. He needs to learn new skills that do not rely on the use of his hands before he can get another job. Due to the region's hot housing market, Charles anticipates his current building will be demolished in less than a year in favor of redevelopment. When that happens, they will only have 60 days to find a new place to live, or else they will lose their voucher. Charles worries he won't be able to find a landlord willing to accept his Housing Choice voucher, and that his family will suddenly be homeless. And he finds that frustrating saying, "I'm not poor by choice; I'm poor by circumstance. I'm not here because I'm lazy or because I didn't take advantage of opportunities." Charles and his family hope there will be enough affordable housing available for them to get through this time and eventually build back some of the things they lost.



666

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



293

people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 105 unsheltered



380

homeless school children



\$11.33 PER HOUR

income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$15.15 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



2,010

families who are severely cost burdened and need access to affordable homes



\$215,000

median home price