

The 25th district is represented by Senator Hans Zeiger, Representative Melanie Stambaugh, and Representative Joyce McDonald, and is located in South Puget Sound. Data below is for Pierce County and the Puyallup School District.



## LUPE'S STORY

In the summer of 2013, Lupe and her son Miracle finally found a place to call home.

The previous few years had been spent couch-surfing and staying in motels following the loss of Lupe's brother's home to foreclosure. After a brief stay in a transitional housing program, Lupe and Miracle were accepted into Tacoma Housing Authority's Families in Transition (FIT) program, which places homeless families into permanent homes in communities rich with services and individualized case management.

For Lupe and Miracle, their new home in the Salishan community in East Tacoma helped them turn a corner. Lupe says, "I had lost sight of who I was. The FIT program helped me to create a new beginning with a firm foundation." Together with her caseworker, Lupe created an individualized plan for her family, which included achieving her own employment goals. "We were blessed that our case manager motivated and encouraged us in ways that built a strong bond in my family."

Lupe is now an advocate for the various services provided in the Salishan community. She joined the Salishan Community Health Advocates, she volunteers with the Salishan Association in running BINGO night, and regularly volunteers to pick up garbage in the community through Litter Crew. She is also working with her neighbors to develop a grassroots resident advisory forum for the Salishan community. Through a stable and affordable home, Lupe and Miracle thrive as members of a supportive community, which has been key to their success.

Lupe recently graduated from the FIT program, and has moved on the Family Self Sufficiency program; a 5-year employment program that provides incentive payments for achieving self-sufficiency milestones. Miracle, now 18, is close to high school graduation and hopes to attend college to become a psychologist.

