



## MELINDA'S STORY

In 2010, Melinda found herself in an unexpected spot - suddenly she was a single mom of a five year old boy, pregnant, and now homeless. The work she had been doing as a caregiver had become complicated due to her physical limitations. The economic hardship was too much, and her home was lost.

After diligently calling the shelter hotline every morning for two and a half weeks, Melinda was finally able to secure a bed in a shelter for her, her son, and her unborn child. Four months later, the call came that she had been accepted into a Transitional Housing Program run by Second Step Housing. "With stable housing, support from case managers, and resources I was referred to, I was able to fight for myself and my boys." Transitional housing proved to be a safe and stable place for Melinda to call home.

In 2013, Melinda graduated from the Transitional Housing Program and moved into an apartment where she could raise her sons in a healthy environment. Later, Melinda applied to be a Partner Family with Habitat for Humanity, and her family was selected to participate in the program. In September 2016, when construction was complete, Melinda and her sons moved into their new home - one that they own, and that they can afford. The boys are in school and Melinda is working on completing her GED. "I want to make my boys proud. I want them to know education is important. I want them to always know that I love them and will never give up on them!"

Having access to a stable, affordable home has made all the difference in Melinda's journey. It has allowed her to blossom into a confident woman who achieves her goals and has allowed her to give her sons the educational experience they deserve.

The 49th district is represented by Senator Annette Cleveland, Representative Sharon Wylie, and Representative Monica Stonier, and is located in the South West corner of the state. Data below is for Clark County and the Vancouver School District.



## 2,147

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



## 688

people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 225 unsheltered



## 1,126

homeless school children



## \$19.63 PER HOUR

income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$23.23 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



## 10,740

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



## \$268,900

median home price