

The 8th district is represented by Senator Sharon Brown, Representative Brad Klippert, and Representative Larry Haler, and is located in South Central Washington. Data below is for Benton County and the Kennewick School District.

## KEYTON'S STORY

Growing up, Keyton struggled to get along with his family, and at the age of 15, the safest thing for him to do was leave home. He tried staying with friends, but burned bridge after bridge with his substance use, and had to learn to survive on the streets.

For 8 years Keyton slept in bushes, or was in and out of shelters, missions, or temporary housing, always getting kicked out eventually for drinking or doing drugs.

Then, Keyton met someone who taught him his life was worth saving. After 8 years of homelessness, and with the help of this new friend, Keyton realized the value in attending his counseling and medical appointments, made his way into treatment, and then finally into a halfway house.

Now, Community Action Council in Pasco gives him a voucher for his own home. A studio apartment in a clean and sober building. Keyton says "The difference is like night and day." It was weird for the first few months to be indoors all the time, but he wouldn't trade the stability for anything. Now Keyton is holding down a job, addressing his health needs, and actually saving money.

He's figuring out who he is in this new life, teaching himself to play piano, and finally planning for the future. He says "There's really not a way to explain being homeless - you know it's happening but you don't know what it feels like unless you're living it. Access to an affordable home means I don't have to worry about that anymore."



**685**

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



**277**

people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 59 unsheltered



**337**

homeless school children



**\$12.87** PER HOUR

income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$16.17 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



**4,065**

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



**\$208,000**

median home price