

The 10th district is represented by Senator Barbara Bailey, Representative Norma Smith, and Representative Dave Paul, and is located in North West Washington. Data below are for Island County and the Oak Harbor School District.



CHAD'S STORY

Chad's early life was already in the fast lane as he started to drink alcohol and smoke marijuana around the age of seven. His first brushes with the law started at age 13, and by age 15, his parents kicked him out of the house.

For the next year Chad bounced around, staying with friends until he wore out his welcome and his options and ended up homeless. Life was a struggle and Chad lived on the streets for 14 long years. Homelessness became a cycle of getting high, being arrested, going to jail, and ultimately serving time in prison - twice.

Because Chad was homeless, his choices in life were very limited. He committed crimes to survive and buy drugs as a means to cope with a harsh life on the streets. Upon his most recent release from prison, Chad received approval to live in Pioneer's City Gate Apartments in Bellingham. City Gate provides housing to individuals in the Whatcom County Reentry Housing Program and Veterans. He enrolled in an intensive outpatient treatment program and started to attend AA and NA meetings twice a week. Chad enrolled in college and started looking for work. The support he received from staff at City Gate helped him decide to pursue a better life for himself. "I heard about a job opening at Pioneer's Transition House in Mount Vernon. The program provides housing and services to people with mental health and substance use disorder issues. I was so lucky to get hired in the position of resident monitor and have the chance to build my career."

Currently, Chad lives in a safe, healthy, and affordable home in Mount Vernon and works at Pioneer Transition House. "You can't imagine what it feels like to be living back in society with a roof over my head and a job that allows me to give back and help others who are in need. I've come full circle."

