



SER'WA'S STORY

For Ser'wa, the experience of homelessness lasted for much longer than she ever could have anticipated. After all, her Section 8 voucher was supposed to bridge the gap between low wages and high rents, but things weren't really working out that way. The search for a home took a massive toll on her health, her wallet, and her employment prospects.

With skyrocketing rents and low vacancies, Ser'wa had a very difficult time finding a place she could afford. Over the course of seven months, Ser'wa had to transfer her voucher through three different housing authority jurisdictions - Seattle, King County, and Renton - just to find an apartment. Holding down a job during this time was nearly impossible because searching for a home became its own full-time job. Near the end of her search Ser'wa wasn't sleeping, couldn't work, and couldn't address her current health needs, let alone the new ones she developed under this kind of stress. She was denied home after home, her credit score was taking hit after hit, and she felt stuck in a cycle that just wouldn't end.

Ser'wa finally found an apartment in Renton that would accept her voucher, and Catholic Community Services assisted with the move-in fees. With a safe and stable roof over her head, Ser'wa is now able to address her chronic health needs and seek employment. She's happy and thriving for the first time in years, and is beginning to recover financially. She says, "You just don't know what it's like to be homeless until it happens to you. Access to a healthy home is a life or death situation. Everything else is obsolete if you don't have a home."

The 11th district is represented by Senator Bob Hasagawa, Representative Zach Hudgins, and Representative Steve Bergquist, and is located just south of Seattle. Data below are for King County, and the Renton School District.



18,324

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



12,112

people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 6,103 counted as unsheltered



573

homeless school children



\$29.40^{PER HOUR}

income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$36.12 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



86,435

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



\$729,800

median home price