DISTRICT 16

WASHINGTON LOW INCOME Housing Alliance

The 16th district is represented by Senator Maureen Walsh, Representative Bill Jenkin, and Representative Skyler Rude, and is located in South East Washington. Data below are for Walla Walla County and the Walla Walla School District.

KAI'S STORY

Before the Great Recession, Kai was living a life he loved. He worked full-time for a tech company, he had regained custody of his son, his daughter had just been born, and they were renting a 3-bedroom home in the country. But when the economy turned in 2008 it turned hard, and Kai lost his job, his home, and his options.

Kai and his family decided to move to Washington to pursue new opportunities, but shortly after arriving, Kai's health failed and he nearly lost his life. He didn't know he had developed adult type 2 diabetes and due to his illness, he lost some of his eyesight. The decline of his health left him unemployed and unable to pay the rent, and then Kai and his family lost their home, again.

After a short stay in a family shelter, Kai and his family were referred to the Tenant Based Rental Assistance Program at the Community Action Center. With the help of the TBRA Program Kai applied for and received a Housing Choice (Section 8) voucher to help pay the rent. As a result of that income support, the family now lives in a safe, healthy, affordable home. The stability allows Kai to focus on being a parent, and on gaining new skills for future employment.

Kai says that because of his newfound stability, "My eldest daughter and her family have found us and my family is growing. I now stand at the edge of the rock bottom that I had been in, and I have hope again for myself and my family."

754
Housing Trust Fund supported homes

181
people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 48 unsheltered

211
homeless school children

$12.79 PER HOUR
income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, $17.02 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom

2,110
families who are severely cost burdened and need access to affordable homes

$215,600
median home price