

The 17th district is represented by Senator Lynda Wilson, Representative Vicki Kraft, and Representative Paul Harris, and is located in the South West corner of the state. Data below are for Clark County and the Vancouver School District.



SHANNON'S STORY

As the Founder and Director of the nonprofit Pathways To Living Good, Shannon ensures that families transitioning out of homelessness have basic furnishings in their new homes. Shannon does this work because she knows what it's like to lose everything she owns to an unexpected experience of homelessness.

For the safety of her children and herself, Shannon left her abuser of 20 years and resettled in a new home. Three years later the landlord sold the property, and gave Shannon 20 days to vacate - not enough time for her to collect the money for first and last month's rent plus a deposit for another apartment. And that's how Shannon and her three children entered homelessness.

Age and gender restrictions in the shelter system meant that Shannon had to split the family up to find shelter. While the kids slept at their friends' houses, Shannon hid the fact that she was living in her car. The school homeless liaison got Shannon in a lottery pool for housing, but when her name was drawn she again didn't have the money to pay all the fees. For thirteen months they bounced from cars to couches to guest bedrooms, when finally Council for the Homeless was able to place them in a motel. Relieved of the burden of finding nightly shelter, Shannon learned how to advocate for herself, gather letters of recommendation, and attend appointments for more permanent housing. She was finally approved for a home she could afford, and received the keys just in time to celebrate her daughters birthday.

Now that Shannon has a stable home she has started her own business, reconnected with her family, and is safe from their abuser. With Pathways to Living Good, Shannon is helping families in Clark County experience the same comforts and stability of a home that she has. What Shannon wants most is to help women like her get out of their bad situations. And for them to know "You can do it, and you are worth it".

