The 20th district is represented by Senator John Braun, Representative Richard DeBolt, and Representative Ed Orcutt, and is located in South West Washington. Data below are for Lewis County and the Centralia and Chehalis School Districts.

KIM’S STORY

Kim began her professional life as a corrections officer, but compounding crises in her personal life sent her looking to alcohol to cope, and before she knew it, she lost her job, her home, and was living on the streets.

Kim spent 10 years living in parks, on couches, and walking around at all hours of the night. She had a beloved companion, her dog, who kept her going because it was another life to care for. But having her dog meant that no shelter would allow her to come inside, not even in the dead of winter.

Finally, Kim met a woman who was willing to help. She brought Kim through a variety of therapy classes and eventually connected her with services to help her find a home. Soon, three different organizations worked together to find her a place to live - one handled her case management, one paid her move in costs, and one paid for her dog to become a licensed therapy animal so that Kim would no longer be denied shelter or a home because of her companion.

Since finding a stable home Kim has stayed sober, hosts bible studies in her home, is working full time, and is fully self sufficient. In addition to her full time work she also volunteers with Project Homeless Connect, which connects people who are homeless with services. She says “I want people who are homeless to get the same help I got, so they know there is a way off the streets.”

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Housing Trust Fund supported homes: 394
People counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 78 unsheltered: 132
Homeless school children: 387
Income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, $15.90 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom: $11.96 per hour
Families who are severely cost burdened and need access to affordable homes: 2,045
Median home price: $224,300

Data sources can be found at www.wliha.org/LDStories.