

The 31st district is represented by Senator Phil Fortunato, Representative Drew Stokesbary, and Representative Morgan Irwin, and encompasses the East King/Pierce County line. Data below are for Pierce County and the Sumner School District.

JULIA'S STORY

By 2012, Julia had spent five years working as part of the bargaining team at Providence St. Peters Hospital when a car accident dramatically changed the course of her life. She suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI), was laid off from her job, was suddenly without income or medical insurance - and on Christmas Eve she lost her home.

Julia lived in the woods in a tent in Yelm for two years, trying to stay secluded so that she wouldn't be harassed as she recovered from her TBI. Without access to a safe and healthy home, Julia's recovery was very slow. "When you don't have a consistent, safe place to sleep, your brain can't function well. With a TBI, this is even more impacted. It is very important that I sleep, so that I can maintain a routine and my process for doing things, otherwise things can become very jumbled."

Julia was eventually connected with services - the \$197 Housing and Essential Needs monthly cash grant coupled with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits provided temporary relief while she waited for approval for disability benefits. Ultimately, Julia knew that she needed to return to school if she was ever going to work again, but finding a stable home had to come first.

Julia now shares a home with two roommates, and is finishing her degree at Evergreen State University. She is a fierce advocate for access to affordable homes, saying, "If I didn't have a stable home I would never be able to recover from my TBI, return to school, and rebuild my career. I want other people like me know there is a light at the end of the tunnel."



3,364

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



1,628

people counted without a home during the Point in Time Count, 728 unsheltered



263

homeless school children



\$16.94

 PER HOUR

income needed to afford a 1-bedroom rental, \$22.02 per hour to afford a 2-bedroom



23,715

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



\$353,700

median home price