



## DIONE'S STORY

Dione is a college graduate, experienced paralegal, working artist, and mother.

Despite some setbacks early in life, Dione defines herself as a success.

Dione grew up in White Center, but more specifically, spent her teenage years on the streets all over Seattle. Dione utilized the services at Seattle's Orient Center, and even completed her GED there. But once she was 18 she no longer qualified, and found the transition to using adult homelessness services difficult. She says, "As a homeless adult, it's hard to keep a job because to use the shelter system you have very specific check-in times, and the place where you get ready for work is often not the place you've slept. Shower and laundry facilities are not usually in the same building."

At the age of 24 Dione developed a schizoaffective disorder. She tried to get treatment, but she was homeless and had to use emergency hospital services almost daily. She just wanted the voices to stop. When she went to the hospital they would give her temporary fixes, like a shot of the antipsychotic Haldol, and then release her back out to the streets. She needed shelter, but her inability to articulate her need kept her locked in this cycle.

Finally she was hospitalized long term, and treated for her mental illness. The proper medication, combined with access to stable home ensured Dione could go back to school and finish her degree, focus on taking care of her son, and pursue her art passion. Now Dione is working full time, and advocates for people with disabilities to have better access to services, and to receive whole health treatments, which includes safe, healthy, affordable housing.

The 34th district is represented by Senator Joe Nguyen, Representative Eileen Cody, and Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, and covers West Seattle, Burien, and Vashon Island. Data below are for King County and the Seattle School District.



## 18,324

Housing Trust Fund supported homes



## 12,112

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



## 4,280

homeless school children



## \$29.40<sup>PER HOUR</sup>

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