

The 35th district is represented by Senator Tim Sheldon, Representative Dan Griffey, and Representative Drew MacEwen, and is located South West of Puget Sound. Data below are for Mason County and the Shelton School District.



APRIL AND JIMMY'S STORY

April and her partner Jimmy struggled for several years with addiction and homelessness, but when April discovered she was pregnant, the couple knew it was time to do something drastically different.

Determined to get off the streets, April called the Mason County Shelter every Tuesday for six weeks, until a spot in the shelter finally opened up for them.

Having a stable and safe place to sleep at night enabled April to enroll in school, get clean, attend AA meetings several times a day, and focus on next steps. Jimmy was able to work with a caseworker to resolve legal issues that had kept him from steady housing and employment.

After three months, April and Jimmy found a 2-bedroom house that they could afford with a private landlord. The Mason County Shelter's rental assistance program helped them pay a full year of rent, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program helped pay for utilities and other necessities. Having a year to not worry about rent was critical for them to continue school, find work, and create a safe home for their child.

April and her husband have now lived in their current home for four years. April is able to care for her three kids and help her family maintain self-sufficiency working on-call for Tuwaduq Family Services. Jimmy now works as an Emergency Planning Specialist for the Skokomish Tribe.

April says her children are her greatest motivator - but if it weren't for assistance finding an affordable home, she doesn't know where their family would be.

