

The 4th district is represented by Senator Mike Padden, Representative Matt Shea, and Representative Bob McCaslin, and covers the Spokane Valley. Data below are for Spokane County and the West and East Valley School Districts.



## HEATHER'S STORY

Heather is a college graduate, community activist, mother, and now CEO of a company working to empower

stigmatized populations and reunite families through training and advocacy. Her motivation? "To help people get through what I've already been through."

Heather is no stranger to homelessness - she grew up living on and off the streets, and struggled with addiction, scattered employment, and started raising a family at a young age. It was a challenging existence, and Heather was repeatedly denied shelter services and treatment because no one could accommodate the needs of her whole family. And ultimately, she lost her children to Child Protective Services.

Heather finally found her way into treatment, moved into a clean and sober house, and her newfound stability allowed her to reunite with her children. She entered the Transitional Living Center - a program and shelter in Spokane designed to lift families out of poverty and homelessness while allowing them to live together. Heather and her children attended therapy sessions, and soon they were ready to transition to living on their own, together, as a family.

Heather has since bought a home, graduated college, and become deeply invested in her community. She's lived in her house for eight years - the longest she's ever lived anywhere in her life. Her kids are in school, no longer fear moving away from their friends every few months, and can focus on their studies.

Heather helped open a family-centered treatment program in Spokane, where families who need help can find housing, long-term support, and comprehensive services, without restrictions on age, gender, or family size.

She does this work because she believes "No parent should ever have to choose, like I did, between going to a shelter or keeping their kids."

