



MELINDA'S STORY

In 2010, Melinda found herself in an unexpected spot - suddenly she was a single mom of a five year old boy, pregnant with a second child, and homeless. The work she had been doing as a caregiver became complicated due to her physical limitations. The economic hardship was too much, and her home was lost.

After diligently calling the shelter hotline every morning for nearly three weeks, Melinda was finally able to secure a bed in a shelter for her, her son, and her unborn child. Four months later, the call came that she had been accepted into a Transitional Housing Program run by Second Step Housing. "With a stable home, support from case managers, and referrals to resources I could use, I was able to fight for myself and my boys."

In 2013, Melinda graduated from the Transitional Housing Program and moved into an apartment where she could raise her sons in a healthy environment. Later, Melinda applied to be a Partner Family with Habitat for Humanity, and she was selected to participate in the program. In September 2016, when construction was complete, Melinda and her sons moved into their new home - one that they own, and that they can afford. The boys are in school and Melinda is working on completing her GED. "I want to make my boys proud. I want them to know education is important. I want them to always know that I love them and will never give up on them!"

Having access to a safe, healthy, affordable home has made all the difference in Melinda's long journey. She blossomed into a confident woman who achieves her goals and can now to give her sons access to the educational experience they deserve.

The 49th district is represented by Senator Annette Cleveland, Representative Sharon Wylie, and Representative Monica Stonier, and is located in the South West corner of the state. Data below are for Clark County and the Vancouver School District.

