

## **ABOUT JESSE**

Jesse has called Washington's 6th District "home" since moving to the Hilltop neighborhood of Tacoma at the age of three with this brother and hard-working single mom. While proud of his humble beginnings, Jesse admits that times often found his family impoverished or **homeless**. Always positive, Jesse recounts, "I learned a lot of lessons growing up, especially how hard work and determination can overcome obstacles."

At a very early age Jesse began assuming responsibilities normally reserved for later in life. Knowing his family wouldn't be able to afford higher education, Jesse studied hard and achieved perfect grades while working part time, participating in multiple varsity sports, and engaging in extracurricular activities at school. This hard work resulted in Jesse graduating from high school as **Valedictorian** in 1995. He was named a **Washington State Scholar** by the state legislature and received the scholarship that went with this honor as well as several other awards and scholarships for both his academic and athletic achievements. While living in a friend's backyard trailer much of his senior year, Jesse's hard work was rewarded when he was accepted by the **University of Notre Dame**.

During college Jesse was a varsity pole-vaulter for the University track and field team, and worked as a dishwasher to help pay for his education. Returning to Tacoma over summer breaks, Jesse continued working to help pay for his education and to save money to marry his high school sweetheart. In June, 1998, Jesse and Jennie were married. Their first year of marriage was spent at Notre Dame where Jesse graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems in 1999.