



An initiative of Children's Home Society of Washington

## 2009 Report to the Community

Dear Friends,

The Burst for Prosperity mission is to test innovative poverty reduction solutions that move low-income individuals and families out of poverty and toward financial independence. 2009 saw many successes in accomplishing this mission.

With an emphasis on wealth creation, Burst has continued to work in three strategic areas to examine innovative ways people can pursue family-wage employment, build long-term wealth-building behaviors, and realize asset development through self-employment. Burst's work is culminated when current systems that support people in poverty change to more effectively move people out of poverty permanently.

To realize success in this work, Burst depends heavily on partnerships that are strategic as well as highly collaborative. We have been fortunate again this year to add new partners to our strategic initiatives. Together by sharing resources and expertise we have seen amazing growth in our initiatives. Some of the highlights include:

- ★ Individuals utilizing the Puget Sound Welcome Back Center to get credentialed into Health Care Careers.
- ★ Career Coaching being utilized with clients in the King County Rapid Rehousing project.
- ★ Enhanced capacity of local immigrant leaders to support their community members' quest for self-sufficiency through farming and other microenterprise initiatives.
- ★ Development of a model to create career pathways in the manufacturing sector supported by a strong retention strategy.
- ★ Increased skill development of youth in preparation for their future in entrepreneurship and other chosen pathways.
- ★ Legislative support for improving TANF to allow more people the opportunity for education and training.

Along the way we have benefited from ideas and support from friends like you who were willing to listen to our ideas, help us refine them, and collaborate as we tested for results. We thank you for your participation, support and encouragement. We know that in these times, our work is extremely important, and together we can and will continue to build bridges to hope, opportunity, and prosperity for citizens in Washington State.

Carol Gregory  
Burst for Prosperity Director

Terri Kephart  
Burst for Prosperity Board Chair



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Burst for Prosperity seeks to reduce poverty in Washington State by researching and testing innovative models informed by the community that transform systems to help people achieve financial independence. Our goal is for individuals affected by poverty in Washington State to become self-sufficient and financially independent members of the community.



**BUILDING LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS**

We believe that building and leveraging existing assets through career pathways, self-employment, and

financial planning can significantly reduce poverty. We seek to create new tools for building wealth and strengthen the ones that already exist.

Burst's work is designed to create systems change so that both generational and situational poverty are effectively addressed through state and federal policy as well as within public and private agencies.



**FOCUS ON PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY**

We believe that models for systems change cannot be introduced without listening

to the needs of the community and adapting models accordingly. Burst's work depends heavily on collaborative and innovative partnerships that engage agencies and individuals from all sectors of the community to create change at multiple levels.

Burst strives to create shared ownership of projects in order to promote sustainable change in the community. Burst's strengths in researching, testing, and evaluating model projects allow for effective technical assistance and advocacy to implement successful poverty-reduction programs statewide.



**Expenses**

Career Pathways . . . . .	337,307
Asset Building . . . . .	134,536
Microenterprise . . . . .	422,304
Administration . . . . .	192,809
<b>Total Expenses 2009 . . . . .</b>	<b>1,086,957</b>

**Cash-on-hand**

Deferred Revenue 12/31/08. . . . .	3,001,544
Deferred Revenue 2009 . . . . .	30,204
Earned Income 2009 . . . . .	59,987
Expenses 2009 . . . . .	(1,086,957)
<b>Cash-on-hand 12/31/09 . . . . .</b>	<b>2,004,778</b>