



Press Release

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From Burundi to Seattle: American Red Cross Honors Serges Hakizimana

Employee at Renton based Burst for Prosperity receives top honor as a 2009 American Red Cross Hero

SEATTLE – March 17, 2010 – We are pleased to announce that Serges Hakizimana, an employee at Children's Home Society of Washington's partner organization, Burst for Prosperity, was recently honored by the American Red Cross on Thursday, March 11. The Annual Red Cross Heroes Breakfast was a celebration of individuals who have demonstrated incredible amounts of compassion and heroism in 2009. Serges Hakizimana, who is a Community Facilitator at the Renton based organization, received the "Commitment to Community" Hero award for his work serving as a leader to 30 Burundian refugee families in the King County area. He has taught some of them enough English to find work, and helped others get a small business loan to establish a farm in Kent.

"Serges is an amazing leader," states Carol Gregory, Director of Burst for Prosperity. "He has been in the United States for just over two years and in that time has connected his community to resources, provided support and encouragement, and acted as a bridge to opportunities in their new country. Life is still difficult for members of the Burundian community but each day looks a little brighter because of Serges's leadership and commitment."

About Burst for Prosperity

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. Burst intends to achieve greater scale as well as impact systems by working on models that help individuals create a pathway to career success, build financial assets, and increase self-sufficiency through entrepreneurship. Burst is an initiative of Children's Home Society of Washington. To learn more, visit burstforprosperity.org.

About Children's Home Society of Washington

Children's Home Society of Washington (CHSW) is Washington's largest statewide non-profit children's organization, serving over 39,000 children and their families through early learning, adoption, out-of-home care, family support, child and family counseling, and advocacy programs. To learn more, visit childrenshomesociety.org.

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