



Accomplishments 2009

## From the Executive Director and the Board President

107 years ago in a speech in New York City, President Theodore Roosevelt observed, “Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.” 60 years later in Edmonds, Washington, the sentiments that had been expressed so eloquently by President Roosevelt came to life with the birth of Work Opportunities; a non-profit organization dedicated to providing persons with disabilities with opportunities to capture that “prize”. The eight parents who created Work Opportunities couldn’t have foreseen how the organization would grow and touch the lives of hundreds of people with disabilities each year; providing them with opportunities to work in jobs they love, and to participate fully in community life.

We are living in challenging economic times, with the recession having brought about a painful cycle of business failures, high unemployment, and home foreclosures; reducing both public and private funding for human services. Against this challenging backdrop, Work Opportunities has continued being effective in carrying out its Mission of “promoting self-determination, self-respect and valued participation in the community for persons with disabilities, through work”. Thanks to a creative and experienced staff, an engaged and dedicated Board of Directors, parents and family members who are willing to help, and an accepting and supportive community that welcomes people with disabilities into the mainstream of community life; Work Opportunities has continued its impressive history of success in helping people with disabilities find their “prize” of a job in the community.

Please share in our sense of pride as you review a few of the many individual achievements that have come from our collaborative efforts. For those of you who have played a role in our efforts, thank you! For those of you who are looking for an opportunity to make our community a better place, please join us! It will change your life, and the lives of others, for the better!

Phil McConnell, Executive Director  
Work Opportunities

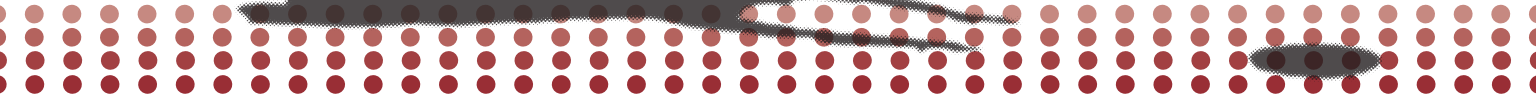
Howard Stott, Board President  
Work Opportunities





## Vision Statement

We envision Work Opportunities as the leader in our community in making it possible for persons with disabilities to participate fully in all aspects of community life. We see persons with disabilities making their own choices from a full range of options in employment opportunities, social and recreational activities, health services, educational opportunities, and living arrangements. We envision an accessible community, free of barriers, shared by accepting and supportive fellow citizens.



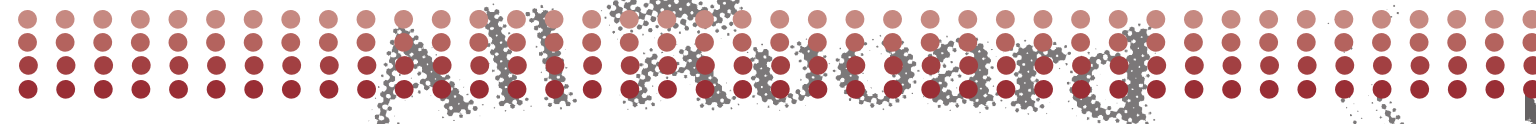



Julie

thinks meeting

new people and learning new skills at the Food Bank is

“absolutely great”! She enjoys greeting the customers, handing out the food, stocking shelves, and providing assistance to her coworkers. The director there says “Julie is very helpful and friendly, she remembers customer’s names after meeting them once, and is very polite. She is creative, does a great job, and is a pleasure to have on-board!”





Raphael is a self-admitted “best cleaner in the world” and his employers couldn’t agree more! “Mr. Raf,” as he refers to himself, has worked for Sound Investment Strategies for over three years cleaning the office space and for over two years providing janitorial and customer service to the Starbucks in Mukilteo.



Larry was adamant that he wanted paid work and through intensive customized employment endeavors, a job was customized for Larry at Supreme Bean where he delivers coffee orders to local businesses. His employer is thrilled with the increase in business and says “We love having Larry work at Supreme Bean – it’s really good for everyone; the community, us, and for Larry!”

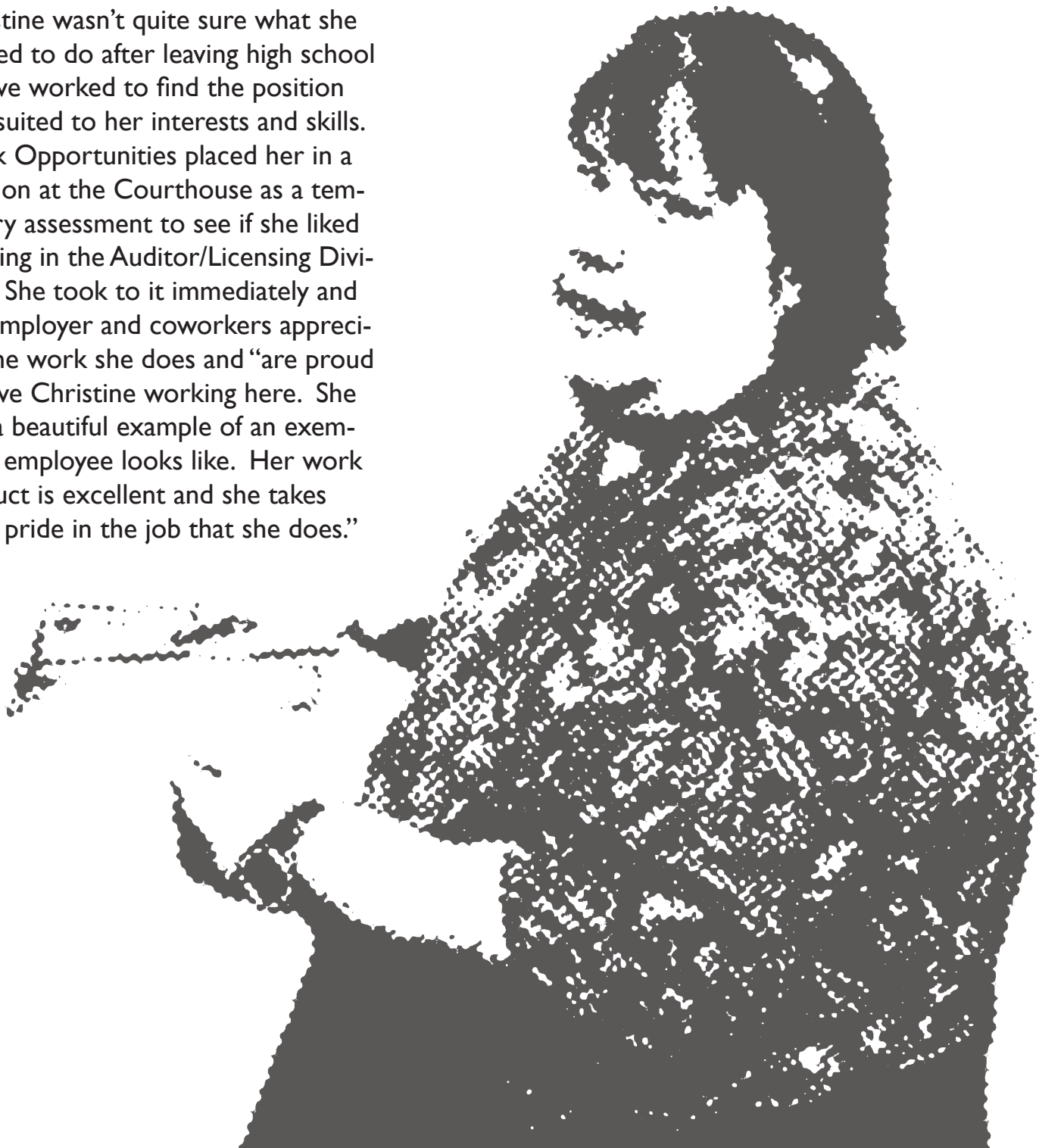




Mike recently began volunteering at the Edmonds School District Facilities and Maintenance Building. He loves working there and says he particularly enjoys sorting papers and making copies on the copy machine. He likes being helpful and working with the office staff. His co-worker is always “happy to hear that Michael is coming to work because the work he does is very important and he is always smiling and pleasant, a joy to have in the office.”



Christine wasn't quite sure what she wanted to do after leaving high school and we worked to find the position best suited to her interests and skills. Work Opportunities placed her in a position at the Courthouse as a temporary assessment to see if she liked working in the Auditor/Licensing Division. She took to it immediately and her employer and coworkers appreciate the work she does and "are proud to have Christine working here. She sets a beautiful example of an exemplary employee looks like. Her work product is excellent and she takes great pride in the job that she does."







### Person to Person

A total of 138 participants received career path community services in 2009.

Over 5000 hours of volunteer service were rendered by participants exploring their interests and skills within non-profit community organization sites.

34 volunteer positions were developed in 2009. Individuals wanting to explore the world of work had opportunities to develop new skills and discover their interests while volunteering in numerous non-profit organizations such as The Hunger Intervention Project, YMCA, and Little Bit Riding Therapeutic Riding Center.



### Group Supported Employment

22 participants were served in a Group Supported Employment setting. Employers working with us in this program include Stevens Hospital, Crane-Eldec, and the Snohomish County Government in the Courthouse, Auditor, Public Works, Human Resources, Information Services & Records Management, and Planning & Development departments.

10 individuals received work training and gained temporary employment in one of Work Opportunities' enclave sites.



### Individual Employment

A total of 174 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Developmental Disabilities participants were served throughout 2009.

34 new jobs were developed in Snohomish/King Counties in 2009.

The average hourly wage for supported employment clients increased from \$9.19 to \$10.40 in 2009.

43% of the individuals served in this program were provided long-term job support to maintain their employment.



United Way  
of Snohomish County



### Whatcom County Community Employment

A total of 54 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Division of Developmental Disabilities participants were served throughout 2009

18 existing jobs were maintained, and 10 new jobs were developed in Whatcom County in 2009.

21 individuals are discovering new skills and interests by working in volunteer positions.

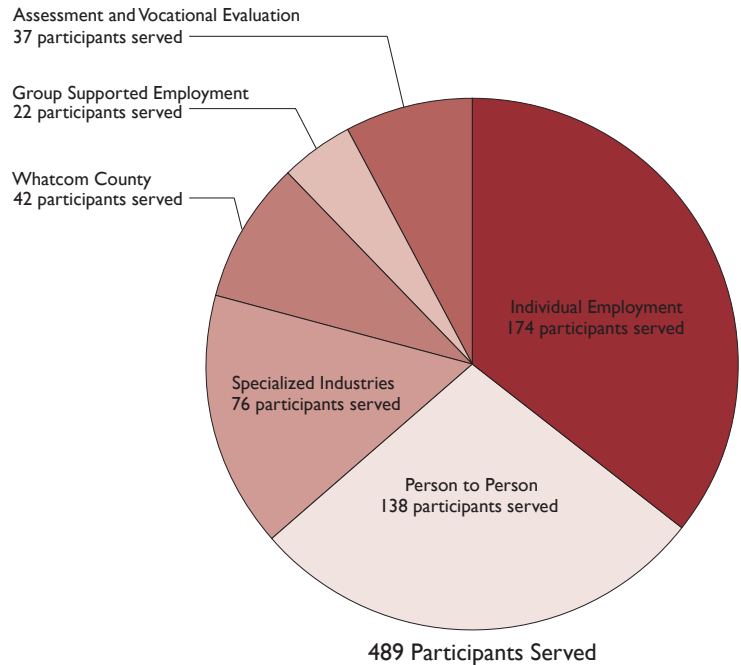


### Specialized Industries

79 individuals received paid work training services within our Lynnwood and Mountlake Terrace Work Centers during 2009.

100% of those receiving facility based services also engaged in community vocational activities such as paid employment, volunteering, job shadowing, and exploring potential employment opportunities.

### Service Metrics 2009



## Highlights 2009

**3 More Years!:**Work Opportunities was awarded a three-year accreditation level-CARF's highest award. Strengths noted in the survey report included an engaged and active Board of Directors, a creative, caring, and ambitious staff, and a high commendation for "a commitment to participants and strong, collaborative efforts with community employers."

**Building Futures:**Presenters who experience disabilities share their stories about living and working in the community. In 2009, over 850 community members saw the 15 Building Futures presentations.

**Let There Be (Efficient)Light:** Work Opportunities was the recipient of a \$12,500 grant from the Snohomish County PUD to retrofit the lighting in the Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood Centers with enviro-lighting.

**Governor's Committee Honors Partner Employer:**Edmonds Community College's Center for Families was honored as Public Employer of the Year at the Governor's Committee on Disabilities and Employment Issues annual Access Fair held on the Microsoft campus in Redmond.

**CDBG Grant for MTC Restrooms:**Work Opportunities was awarded a \$100,000 Snohomish County Community Development Block Grant to expand and modernize the rest rooms at the Mountlake Terrace Center.

**Bob Drewel Human Services Employee Award:** Work Opportunities Executive Director Phil McConnell was awarded the 2009 Bob Drewel Human Services Employee of the Year Award.The honor is presented annually to a Snohomish County non-profit organization executive to acknowledge achievements in improving quality of life for all of Snohomish County citizens through work in human services.

**Keeping the Beat:**Work Opportunities held its staff retreat at the Edmonds Center for the Arts, where this year's theme was communication.A highlight of the retreat was a drumming exercise where the importance of synchronicity and the relationship between the parts and the whole were audibly demonstrated.

**Help for Graduates:** The Work Opportunities' staff was integral in the planning of, and participation in, the transition fairs in Snohom-

ish, King, and Whatcom Counties.The fairs provide resource information to students graduating from high school and their families.

**Advocating Together:**Work Opportunities is a Founding Member of Community Employment Alliance (CEA), a new statewide consortium of supported employment vendors. We have been involved in educating policy makers and elected officials about how crucial it is that funding and policies reflect the value of employment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Chambers of Commerce:**Work Opportunities is proud to be a member the Chambers of Commerce in Edmonds, South Snohomish County and Bellingham.

**Fun in the...Shade:** The hot weather in July was just perfect for our annual picnic at Daleway Park in Lynnwood. This picnic, which has become a Work Opportunities' tradition, had an added treat this year when the Work Opportunities Board of Directors served up gourmet ice cream to participants and staff!

**Evergreen State Fair:** Thanks to free admission provided by Snohomish County State Fair,Work Opportunities' staff and volunteers had over 50 people attended the Evergreen State Fair in August.

**SeaFair Holiday Cruise:** With the coordination efforts of Work Opportunities' Janet Bruckshen, 200 volunteers, and over 800 Snohomish County residents with disabilities delighted in the annual SeaFair Holiday Cruise on Lake Washington.

**Mike and Georgina Hatch Achievement Award:** The 2009 winner of the Mike and Georgina Hatch Achievement Award was Debbie Zaske, who works for Jumbo Foods.This award is presented annually to acknowledge and honor a participant who has achieved greater community participation through work.

**Dreams!—7th Annual Dinner and Auction:**Work Opportunities' seventh annual auction was a wonderful success, raising nearly \$90,000 due to the collaborative efforts of many. City Bank, our prime sponsor for the seventh year in a row, contributed not only financially, but also in presence. Boeing also contributed to the success of our evening by having over 50

employees in attendance.

**Bowlarama!:** A big thank you to Boeing, City Bank, Work Opportunities' participants and their families, Board Members, staff, and Brunswick Majestic Lanes for raising over \$11,507 at Bowlarama 2009!

**United Way of Snohomish County:** Tess Hernandez and Teresa Clark volunteered to coordinate the Work Opportunities United Way campaign, with energy, commitment and countless hours of hard work. Over half of Work Opportunities' staff "Lived United" by pledging donations to the United Way of Snohomish County.

**Crane Aerospace (Eldec):** Work Opportunities was the recipient of \$2500 through the Crane Widows and Children Fund. This donation was utilized to provide sign language interpreters to individuals accessing our program services and other community activities.

**Read All About It!:** The Seattle Mariners Magazine prominently featured a two page highlight of Work Opportunities in its July 2009 issue. Work Opportunities provides support for six employees of the Mariners; a most rewarding partnership for all involved!

**Boeing Employees are Good Neighbors:** On a beautiful sunny day in early April, 15 Boeing employees and their families contributed several hours of their time to beautify the grounds at the Lynnwood Center. Bushes were trimmed, flowers planted, a garden was installed, and a winter's worth of pine needles swept up, putting a colorful, fresh, spring look to the Lynnwood Center grounds.

A special thanks to our board members for their service, and contributions to our organization:

Howard Stott, President  
Marilyn Pricco, Vice President  
Sue Haley, Secretary  
Tom Stephens, Treasurer  
Leslie Dodge  
Lois Freese  
John Kolodzie

Gorm Lauritzen  
Joan Longstaff  
Hubie McMorrow  
Pat Pedersen  
Mike Rucker  
Sylvia Siegel  
Barbara Vicent

## Financial Metrics 2009

