

UNDERSTANDING. ACTION. IMPACT.

An integrated approach to social investment



1	Introduction
2-3	Letter to our partners
4-7	Closing the opportunity gap among children
8-11	Offering vital support to low-income women
12-17	Supporting housing that strengthens communities
18-21	Changing behaviors to minimize environmental impacts
22-25	Leveraging tax credits for economic development nationwide
26	Boston Community Capital organizational structure
27-33	Partners in our mission

Change is multifaceted. Funding sources shift.

Constituents—and their needs—fluctuate. Service providers evolve. And we change with them.

Adjusting tactics. Expanding our bases. Working systemically and through individual projects.

Above all, we prepare for future transformations.

Because every piece is interconnected. Every new need creates a new opportunity. Every element shapes the others. That is the alchemy of change.

allocation:

Community Capital must evolve to respond to the changing needs of our constituencies and to the changing world in which we live. From that perspective, 2005 has been a remarkable year for all of us here at BCC. We've closed our first New Markets Tax Credit transactions, launched new financial products to better meet the needs of our borrowers and portfolio companies, substantially bolstered our balance

sheet, and added experienced, talented staff to support our

growth-all in an era of shrinking public resource for commu-

nity economic development.

We have always known that in order to be effective. Boston

In earlier reports we have written about the New Markets Tax Credit, which is designed to bring private capital into lowincome communities. As you may recall, BCC received one of the largest allocations to a mission-driven organization—an allocation that can be used nationally. Over the last year, we have placed almost \$40 million of our initial \$70 million

- · To reach nationwide, funding projects such as the Eco-Trust project on the Olympic Peninsula, described in this report.
- · To support rural communities, in addition to our traditional urban neighborhoods.

· To leverage the capital of large-scale commercial investors who have not historically worked with CDFIs.

But the particular projects that we have financed are only one piece of our New Markets strategy. In addition to growing our Loan Fund, we are using our financial strength to change behaviors and to create new strategies for meeting the needs of the communities we serve. Our NMTC earnings broaden our equity base and strengthen our balance sheet. That, together with solid support from our partners, gives us the ability not only to focus on individual projects but also to pursue systemic solutions.

Growth requires human as well as financial resource, and long-time readers will note an additional signature at the bottom of this letter. We are delighted to welcome Becky Regan as the new Chief Operating Officer of our Loan Fund. Becky brings a wealth of experience lending in our communities and greatly enhances our capacity.

Mahatma Gandhi said: "We must become the change we want to see in the world." With that thought firmly in mind, we are now in the midst of developing our next five-year strategic plan. Our thinking is still emerging but we do know that we want to use the platform we've built not just to increase the impact of our current work but to focus outward and to tackle larger questions:

- · How can we partner with our sister organizations across the country to better leverage all of our resources?
- · How do we best promote cost-effective "green" and sustainable design for low-income housing so as to reduce energy expenses and operating costs and to promote better health?
- · What is the relationship between globalization and effective domestic workforce development, and what expertise can we bring to bear on that issue?
- · What role can we play in serving the housing, economic development and educational needs of a changing demographic?
- · What financial products are most useful for the newer immigrant populations who fuel our country's growth and for our burgeoning elder population?
- · How do we create stronger alliances among community economic development practitioners, organized labor, public health, supporters of a cleaner environment, and the public education system so as to provide a more systemic approach to the challenges of poverty?

We are ever conscious that we are not alone on our journey. Whatever ability we have to become the change we wish to see would not be possible without the strong and constant support of our investors, our funders, our partners, our Board and committee members, and our borrowers. As always, we thank you for that gift, and invite you to continue with us as we pursue the one constant that does not change—our mission:

To build healthy communities where low-income people live











Head Start is the most successful, longest-running, national school-readiness program in the history of the United States. And it needs support. So we funded a new facility serving the densest part of Somerville. And a service for Head Start directors and management teams nationwide. Our goal: to close the opportunity gap among children from different economic strata.

Most people recognize Head Start as an effective preschool program for lower income families. They may even know that Head Start agencies provide two-thirds of their students' daily nutritional requirements, as well as medical and dental screening. But, as Jack Hamilton, Executive Director of the Community Action Agency in Somerville (CAAS), explains, "Even the most stalwart Head Start supporters don't understand the rest of what we do: for us, helping the family be strong and teaching them that they have the right to advocate for their children is critical to our mission." Donna Cabral. the agency's Head Start Director, concurs. "Head Start was founded as an anti-poverty program. To succeed, it has to teach people skills for self-sufficiency. Not just the children, but their parents." The Somerville program has two unique approaches to teaching those skills, Cabral continues. "First, of our 48 current staff members, 33 were past parents in the program—I believe it is the highest percentage of any Head Start program in the country. And because of it, our parent involvement is very strong. Second, we do lots of work with fathers. Although Head Start has traditionally worked with single mothers, now we are engaging the fathers in their children's education; we also help them look at their own issues and concerns around fathering." Yet, as effective as these programs are, Hamilton and Cabral know that physical space can make a tangible difference in the way families feel and

the degree to which they engage. Last year, with backing from BCC, they constructed a new facility. "Right from the beginning, BCC had an attitude that this was a good project and nothing was going to stop us. They have been more encouraging, cooperative and generous than we could imagine—even when we faced obstacles. Both their financial and psychological support were invaluable." Located on a formerly contaminated brownfields site in the densest neighborhood of Somerville, the building allows CAAS to centralize programs that had previously been scattered city-wide. It has had a powerful effect. "Children and families see such a huge difference when they walk in this school—they have a whole new attitude," Cabral says. Hamilton adds, "There is universal enthusiasm. It is the difference between renting and owning." On a very fundamental level, the building provides a sense of community, so new parents feel more at home and spend more time with the program. It also fosters a sense of pride, Cabral says. "They think: this is our school, our program, our family." Not only do they engage, they take the lessons to heart. Most importantly, they act, advocating for their children throughout their school careers.

Anywhere in the country, running a high-quality Head Start We have incredibly high expectations for our Head Start pro-

dictable daily challenges can be overwhelming. Now Head Start programs have a new resource: A partners with local communities to help grams possible.

"We believe that effective management is the key lever to great outcomes for children and families. It can make all the difference in ensuring a high-quality program," states Aaron Lieberman, Acelero's founder and CEO. "We operate in areas where a Head Start grant has been

agency, by focusing on management. That drives down into us grow ahead of the curve, so we have been able to teacher training, needs assessment and d same as the prior grantee—but now they have new systems, new standards and new support." Lieberman reports, ures by 30%." That bodes well for America's children. "Teachers say, 'We didn't used to have much guidance about how to teach; now the expectations are clear.' And it is true.

is hard work. And it is getting harder. Changing fed- grams: we want them to be good enough that we or anyone eral guidelines, stricter accountability standards, and unpre- else would drop their own children off there every morning."

successful investment in

ous role as CEO of non-profit early-education organization. "We worked with a hundred different Head Start programs across the counexcellent, but some really struggled. I founded

revoked because the grantee was not meeting even the most Acelero to do something to help them. One of the first places basic federal performance standards. We begin, as a new we came for capital was BCC. The (Venture Fund) has helped t in a shorter timeframe." Acelero's approach solving clearly defined issues in a thorough and sys- is clearly effective. "In our first partner program, where we tematic way. Often, the majority of staff we work with is the have worked over the last three years, we have been able to n in all child assessment meas-

FERING VITAL SUPPORT TO LOW-INCOME WOMEN

When lack of income and gender inequality intersect, challenges intensify. Options are fewer. Work is harder to find when you have a child to care for, too. Women need both to be empowered and to feel empowered. Our approach: Vital support for organizations serving low-income women.



together, these women

about 700 women a week, more than half of whom are reguabout jobs and healthcare; they come (and call) seeking emo- 1971, the Women's Center is the longest continually operat-

tional support and practical guidance; If it weren't for BCC, I don't they come seeking a community. And each one leaves empowered. Some are actively Women of aroup Action. They work on their day-to-day lives —issues such as unfair treatment by the housing authority and mothers with strollers being left behind at bus stops. Banding

know where we would be. They helped us understand recruited to join the our options so we could act quickly. They have been very issues that impact instrumental in making sure we are around for another

their community, a voice that deserves to be heard. Other the chaos of her life." A haven, indeed. women use the Center's resources to change their own lives. Take Sara. In need of a job, she starts at the job board, notes

The three-story Victorian house is clearly a home. It is also a some employment possibilities, then heads to the computer haven. In fact, the Women's Center provides a refuge for room to research her potential employers. An earlier course helped her polish her resume; a new program will coach her lar visitors. They come to the Center seeking information on interviewing techniques. And it is all for free. Founded in

> ing women's center in this country. It is funded by contributions, staffed by more than a hundred volunteers, and needed urgently. Asked where these women would turn if the Center didn't exist, Board President Martina Bouey responds, "I honestly don't know; there isn't another organization like this." Over the past few years, as the nation's economic safety net has shrunk, the Center has seen a dramatic increase in homeless women. Bouey says, "While we are not a shelter, we are a place where homeless women can come during the day. They use the internet to look for housing or jobs and connect with loved ones. They cook their own food in our kitchen. Sometimes they come just to rest in one of the Center's living rooms; for a

not only effect change, they learn that they have a voice in homeless woman, that may be the only respite she finds from

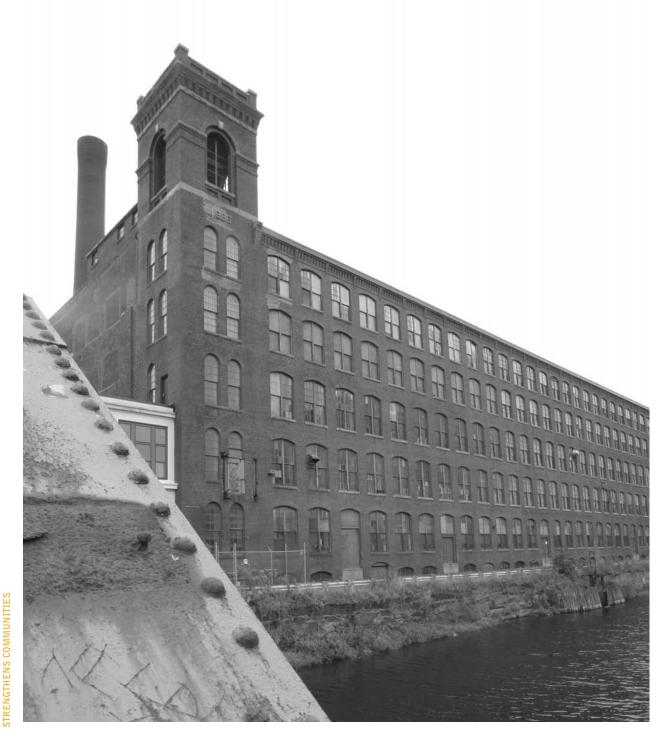


In 1886, Bostonian Pauline Cazenove and a group of her activities; many wouldn't be able to work in town without a headquarters on Clarendon Street, a building that featured a hotel for women, as well as a swimming pool, gymnasium, auditorium and other facilities. Over the next 75 years, demographics shifted, usages changed, and the YWCA expanded its services for low-income women. In 2002, the YWCA decided it was time to transform the space. With help from BCC and other sources, the YWCA has renovated the converting the top 13 floors to include 56 apart- this is a v ments, 88 single-occupancy rooms with private baths and 40 to live." She is very clear about the critical role BCC played hotel rooms. "We are providing LLC, the for-profit arm of the YWCA which runs the building. "Forty percent of our housing units are available to people with low and moderate incomes. We have a changing, We are located at a cross-roads between neighborhoods, so everyone is welcome. We look at that as a key element in providing housing—that is what keeps our housing vibrant." Asked where the residents lived before, she responds, "Some were in substandard housing, some were edgeable. Their expertise eased a lot of bump homeless and some were having a hard time finding an apartment they could afford in town. For young people starting out, be grateful the YWCA did, then and now. this is a great place to live, because it is in a safe neighborhood, close to public transportation, downtown and cultural

ed the YWCA. In 1927, the Boston chapter built — lower-cost options like this." This new influx of housing is an equal blessing for many older people who also have found themselves priced out of the Boston housing market. Of course, public funding parameters require that some of the rooms are occupied by men. "But including men doesn't mean we are excluding women." Parks reflects, "The building is run by a women's organization and is designed to serve in making the project possible. "BCC's \$1 million loan of presays Judy Parks of the Clarendon Residences — development funding was critical in enabling us to pay the architect and engineers, and to putting together the construction and financing packages that got the project built. Without them the project literally could not have happened. Now BCC is helping us with a second \$1 million loan for operating support as we phase out of construction and into operations. They are our openers and closers." She adds, "They were so helpful and easy to work with—and they were knowlhadn't built anything in 75 years!" The women of Boston can



BCC's \$200,000 organizational support loan came at a crucial moment for the Women's Center, whose president Martina Bouey, is pictured above; the loan enables the Center to move forward on plan.





As demographics shift, housing needs vary—and existing solutions do not always work. The elderly, newly arrived immigrants, even artists have unique requirements—and forward-thinking agencies are meeting them. Meanwhile, depressed city centers offer renaissance opportunities, while abandoned buildings cry for adaptive reuse.

Our focus: to support the creation of distinct housing, tailored to serve specific demographic and area needs.

"Lawrence did not just need more affordable housing, it need- health club, would like to see a movie. He also wanted to proed someone with vision to c city," says Sean McDonnell, President of The Architectural businesses, residents and others. The RGI spearheaded the outside Boston. We had also heard they were effort to rezone the down-

other visionaries to get to work. Soon the V tined to revitalize downindustrial district, but Lawrence is a tightly packed city. Our project is two for achieving them. blocks from Essex Street,

Street was the shopping center for the Merrimack Valley, but McDonnell says. "Our project had a number of inherent 'green the street has been largely vacant for 20 years. The mayor opportunities', and now we are trying go further. BCC is he was interested in putting people with paychecks downtownpeople who have to go buy a gallon of milk, want to join a

for the vide some The AHF decided to t which had fallen into near vacancy, into Heritage Foundation (AHF). Fortunately, a grassroots group mixed-income loft-style apartments. McDonnell explains, had that vision: the Reviviendo Gateway Initiative (RGI), led "We approached BCC roughly a year ago, hoping to persuade by Lawrence Community Works and Groundwork Lawrence, them to help us with predevelopment funding. Although we includes mill owners, city officials, civic and cultural groups, had not worked with them before, we had heard they work

bumped into a conceptual problem with state funders: there were resources available for straightforward affordable-housing projects, but not for this sort of project," Not only did BCC understand the project's goals, they have helped

the main commercial street in Lawrence. Historically, Essex extend them. "BCC sees a growing need for green design,"

The founding principle is simple, sensible and effective: lowincome elderly housing that focuses on living. "At Jewish Community Housing for the Elderly (JCHE), we don't look at dependence and disabilities; we try to help people focus on born and Chinese speakers get along?' I answer, 'Like neightheir skills, building the types of programs that allow them to remain independent as long as possible," explains Ellen "I am stunned at the way that the elderly are often stereotyped. People generalize, '...all elderly need...' even though they are discussing a group with vastly different life experiences and ages. It doesn't work; no one-size-fits-all living solution can work," Feingold reflects. One key to independof community among its 1300 residents. Feingold continues, "Most applicants are in their late 70s, with an average income of \$9,000. Often their spouse has died, and as a result both their income and their ability to cope has plummeted. We have been very successful in helping people live out their do and ways of caring for themselves, and, most of all, providing a community." She observes, "You can be in the nicest more institutional alternatives. Then as new programs develhome in the world, but if you only have the delivery man to op, they will be encouraged to include the kinds of things that talk to you won't be happy. It is all about community." JCHE help people love life." housing, which is deliberately nonsectarian, often features

communities that overlap in interesting ways. For example,

Leventhal House, one of three JCHE properties to be renovated with BCC support, has three discrete elderly populations. "People ask me, 'How do the Russian speakers and Americanbors on any street.' Often we find that they build friendships over cooking: Someone who runs out of sugar goes down the Feingold, President of JCHE. It is not a universal approach. hall to borrow some. Every culture uses sugar." Still, she has also found that being with members of their own culture is increasingly significant as people age. "That tradition and comfort is very important for the elderly," muses Feingold. "It is a funny balance, enabling people from multiple cultures to live happily together with respect for each other, while ence is interdependence; JCHE strives to foster a strong sense maintaining their own sense of community." JCHE's blend of independence and interdependence is both effective and costeffective. "We used rough numbers to show that in just nine months we saved over \$2 million in Medicaid for those residents who were nursing-home qualified. In an environment like this, problems get caught much earlier, so tenants use lives, by enriching their days, giving them access to things to fewer medical services," says Feingold. "At some point we'll be able to prove how much less expensive our model is than





At a time when deserted buildings around Boston were burning, artists moved into Fort Point, literally preserving the structures as they created a neighborhood. Thirty years later, encroaching gentrification has spurred them to band together again; now they are preserving their community. "We are now completing our first project, the 200,000 square foot Midway Studios, co-developed with Keen Development," explains Anita Lauricella of the Fort Point Cultural Coalition. "Our relationship with BCC has been incredibly important for us in this project. They understand that it's about more than buildings. It's about neighborhoods."

Above: Sculptor Tim Murdoch in his studio at Midway. The project provides 89 live/work studios, plus ground floor commercial space for arts-related businesses in the Fort Point neighborhood of Boston.

Opposite top: Ping Weng, a JCHE resident, puts finishing touches on her painting. A \$500,000 loan from BCC began the process of upgrading JCHE's Leventhal House, Ulin House, and Genesis House. A separate \$1,289,000 loan is funding pre-development expenses for new JCHE housing in Framingham.

Opposite bottom: Windale Developers' Washington Commons development in Roxbury provides spacious new family homes in keeping with the neighborhood's historic character.







It is a conundrum: We live in a world with a growing population, a population that demands more food, more housing, more transportation, more goods. Yet every expansion places a strain on resources. Our response: To invest in individual companies and large-scale initiatives that preserve resources, promote energy-efficiency and minimize environmental impacts.

Matthew Malloy of Z

of the car," he continues, "it is about the cost of having a car in the city. Zipcar members enjoy to any car, anywhere. (Zipcar has over 20 makes of car located in major metropolitan areas nationwide.) Members get that access at a insurance, maintenance, and XM Satellite Radio service. It is the perfect alternative for the city members a month, it is clear that the Zipcar concept has caught on.

That is good for Zipcar. And

Zipcar members walk more, bike more and use public trans- car enthusiast dreamed of an 8-cylinder car. Now there is portation more." Indeed, studies show that the average an amazing change: a younger audience sees the Prius Zipcar member drove 5,295 miles a year before joining as the cool, h Zipcar; now they drive 369 miles a year. That means, cumu- has them.

Inc. "It is not just about the cost gas—and the attendant emissions—in 2004 alone. And since,

less congestion. Fewer Even more walking.

Malloy points out, "We know that and the zeitgeist shifts. "Ten to twenty years ago the average Not surprisingly, Zipcar

on average, each Zipcar takes 20 cars off the road, less land and fewer financial resources are needed to provide parking infrastructure. Malloy sees Zipcar as part of an —an environmentally and fiscally conscious way of continuing a motoring lifestyle. He remains impressed investors, including BCC, that made the decision early on to support that evolution." Now that decision is proving prescient, as gas prices soar Around the world, countries with higher fuel costs and more term cost-benefits—such as the well-being of residents and stringent regulatory requirements consider "green" technology a standard component of building. They plant rooftop gardens that insulate buildings while minimizing storm water run-off. They orient new construction to maximize sun exposure and thus natural heat. They use healthier materials at the need to retrofit. BCC has embraced this strategy, promoting these same principles in the construction of affordable housing. We are creating financing products to pay for green development costs, and considering green standards for each of the projects we finance. Dick Jones, COO of BCC, describes our reasoning: "The sustainable healthy communities and affordable housing and community development that we do green development. More importantly, there are real consequences to not looking at the environment. It is an issue of justice; lots of the bad stuff has gotten dumped in poorer communities." While few would argue against the environment, per se, many argue that the added costs outweigh the added benefits. One of our goals is to develop a more holistic create major changes in the ways green and affordable housanalysis, looking at the lifecycle costs of a building. Jones says BCC is trying "to determine if there are savings that we can lend against. For instance, we might spend 2% more for construction, but save 10% in operating costs." Other long-

the maintenance of the structure—are equally critical though harder to quantify. However, both experience and common sense underscore their importance. "As lenders, we are at real risk of having properties that are in financial trouble if fuel costs go way up," Jones points out. Careful planning and outset, avoiding later medical complications as well as the expert advice are keys to success—and to streamlining costs. "We want to make sure we have the best engineer in from day one, working with the architect to integrate green elements in the design," Jones explains. "Maximum solar exposure can drive down heating costs, but you certainly can't make that decision at the end." One key challenge is to supply enough money upfront that those smart decisions are made. To support these costs, BCC is expanding its early-stage financing are entirely consistent with environmentally sensitive healthy for integrated green design. And we are collaborating with a consortium of four peer groups, known as the Green Building Production Network, to provide grants and technical assistance to affordable housing projects to achieve substantial green outcomes. Ultimately, innovation will be imperative for success. We are seeking some powerful new solutions that will ing is designed, financed, built and managed. The end goal: a sustainable model for green development.

Developing educational initiatives, fostering conservation and bringing new business to distressed communities takes money. One solution: The New Markets Tax Credit, an incentive for commercial partners to create a new pool of assets that we can leverage to fund local and national projects.



has a four-year program to prepare Boston students to a summer academy at MIT for all incoming freshmen succeed in college and beyond. MATCH School students and other students who have failed classes during the year; "arrive from their various middle schools having scored, run a freshman class in media and technology tied to reading,

on average, in the lowest 10% in Massachusetts on their to Executive Director Alan job is to change what might seem like the inevitable out-In 2005, MATCH School 10th graders outperformed suburban students across the Commonwealth, with MCAS

University, Georgetown University, and Spelman College." In other words, in four short years these students move academically from the lowest 10% of their peers to the highest 20% and on to college. How are they able to make that shift? Because the MATCH School supplies unrivaled support on every front. "The MATCH School has 68 full-time adults for 185 students. All our kids get two hours a day of individual

The Media and Technology Charter High (MATCH) School tutoring from residential college graduate tutors. We provide

BCC helped close a new markets

Advanced Placement courses 8th grade MCAS," according tax credit deal—providing an Safran. The MATCH School's \$8.5 million leverage loan—that will save the school considercome of those poor scores. able money in debt service. Now we can use that money for educational support for our kids.

for all juniors and all seniors." Not surprisingly, MATCH School methods are attracting attention and accolades. The Wall Street Journal, CNN and the New York Times have all praised the school. Further tributes have come from MassInc, Mass Insight, Hewlett Packard

writing and research; offer

scores in the top 20%. Safran continues, "One hundred per- and the US Dept. of Education. But the most important cent of our first and second Graduating Classes (2004, 2005) recognition is internal: Students are proud. Parents are gratewere admitted to colleges across the nation—including Brown ful. And demand is soaring. "In spring 2005, 478 families applied for just 70 slots in our random admission lottery," Safran says. He is clear about what that means: "There is strong community demand for small, autonomous, rigorous public high schools," high schools where every student has a





BCC's mission has always focused on using innovative fina people live and work. And one path to accomplishing that has agement of West Coast rain forests. The result: been to leverage sustainable and efficient private sector investpromote private capital investment in low-income communiexpand our reach far beyond our original urban environs. BCC has already placed roughly half of its \$70 million NMTC allocation. In two recent NMTC transactions we have as sustainable forest—along with 300 related at-risk forest-product jobs. The transaction includes the Nature Conservancy's right to purchase conservation easements on the most environmentally among the local population through new eco-tourism businesses. The scope of these projects is due entirely to the NMTC monies that enabled the transactions, in the aggregate, to support an additional \$174 million in non-tax credit supported debt. Across the country, in Washington state, a similar projting the reservation lands of the Makah tribe on the Olympic other poor forestry practices the land had been substantially sort of lasting impact for which BCC strives. degraded. Yet this transaction gives it new purpose, creating a partnership among a forest products management company,

the Makah tribe, and Eco-trust, a non-profit organization that to help build healthy communities where low-income has developed new approaches to "triple bottom line" mant (NMTC), designed to Hagen of Eco-trust describes it, "This forest land is in one of the most remote and inaccessible corners of the continental U.S. Over the past few decades, the local communities have been challenged by declining timber harvests, declining productivity of fishery catches and by increased efficiency in the forest-products sector. Our strategy is to engage in restorative forestry, which generally employs more people, and supplies a more constant flow of timber to the local communities." The land will be managed to preserve habitat and to increase carbon sequestration through reforestvaluable tracts and creates a fund to support entrepreneurship ing the area, extending harvest rotations, and engaging in selective logging rather than clear-cutting. The result, as von Hagen explains, will "...allow the forest to return to an older and more complex structure." Eco-trust is also using the purchase of this land as a model; working with local utilities, they are trying to establish carbon credit and habitat credit markets. If they are successful, to manage their forests in a similar environmentally Peninsula. After decades of clear-cutting, over-harvesting, and socially sustainable fashion. That is precisely the

Boston Community Loan Fund lends money to community projects such as affordable housing and community facilities that might not otherwise be able to be financed.

Boston Community Venture Fund makes equity investments in both emerging and existing businesses that create jobs or provide services for low-income communities.

Boston Community Managed Assets develops our new business initiatives and innovative funding vehicles for low-income individuals and communities.

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- · Finance affordable housing, child care facilities, arts programs, schools, health clinics, youth programs and other
- Invest equity dollars into businesses that create social and financial returns.
- Develop new financial tools that connect low-income communities to mainstream

Working together, we achieve the cost-effective access to capital that is a key to building healthy communities.

Anonymous foundation

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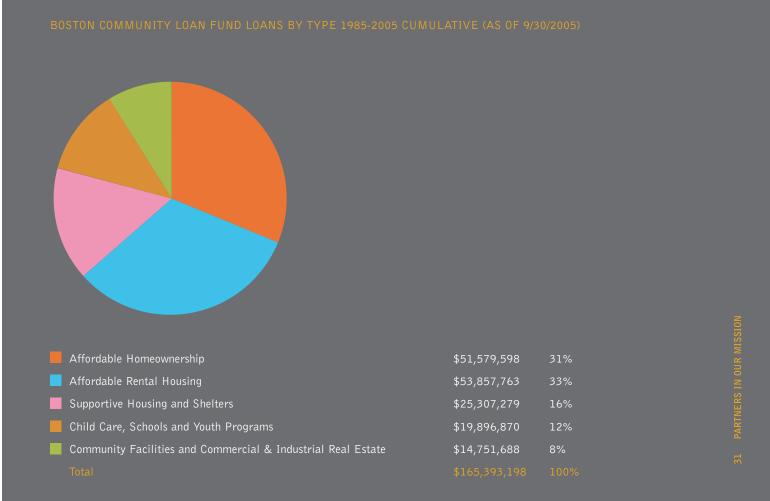
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