

# Minneapolis Telecommunications Network

*Celebrating 19 years*



*Annual Report*  
*2001-2002*

*Strengthening Community*

## A Message from our Board Chair

MTN's most immediate and most important undertaking is to ensure the future of public access television in Minneapolis by finding a new home. In February 2005, MTN's lease expires and the building owner has informed us it will not be renewed. While St. Anthony Main has been a wonderful home, we need to find a new one. The board is looking at many options, including the purchase of a building or partnering with a city government unit in an existing building. We have asked Mayor R.T. Rybak and the City Council to consider our needs as the city negotiates with Time Warner on channel capacity and the franchise renewal. Unfortunately, we can not count on the negotiations being completed in time for us to plan our move. As a result, city officials have offered assistance to begin the process. I want to thank Mayor Rybak, the City Council, and our city liaison, Edie French, for their support. With the city's help--and with the continued hard work of MTN's dedicated staff--MTN's 470 community television producers will continue to thrive in a new home.

Mark Engebretson  
Chair, MTN Board



**Mark Engebretson**

## A Message from our Executive Director

Community television thrives in Minneapolis! Located on the banks of the Mississippi River near the sacred falls of the Dakota, MTN represents the very best that our democracy offers. We do not censor or stifle the voices of our community. Whether in English or Somali, rock and roll or Tibetan Folk, religious service or comedy, our diversity is our strength and certainly our future. In this report you will find a sample of the people and the programs that make MTN great. Creating community television on a daily basis demands that there be dedicated volunteers.

MTN has 470 active producers who regularly utilize a large and changing number of citizens in every capacity of production. We are proud that City Pages voted MTN "Best Television Station in the Twin Cities" in 2001 for the consecutive year. We are grateful that our City leaders have continued to support MTN since 1983 when cable television first came to Minneapolis. Without this community forum, the majority of our voices would never gain access to commercial or public television channels. Today, more and more channels are owned by fewer and fewer corporate giants. Minneapolis is a unique and wonderful city. It is our citizens who can define it best -television by the people. Community television in Minneapolis is a precious resource that must be preserved and enhanced.

Pam Colby  
Executive Director



**Pamela Colby**

## Celebrate MTN

In December of 2001, MTN hosted a live celebration of Community Television. In 2001, 2,502 hours of television programming were produced utilizing MTN's equipment. A total of 3336 programs were submitted to MTN for our public-access channels. A sampling of regular series programs include Somali

TV, Environmental Journal, Community at Work, Lemmy O Live, Church Universal Triumphant, Somali Show, Classic Rock Music Channel, Middle Eastern Dance, Minneapolis Neighborhood News, Black Focus, Rainbow Flag, Public Health Journal, The Hemp Channel, Spectator, Minneapolis Property Rights Action, Street Corners, Diet to End Disease, Primal Scream TV, Time Warner Connections, Humanist Perspective, Vic Tedesco Big Band, Kinpride, Strictly Seniors, Sword of the Spirit, Welcome to Islam, Eritrean TV, WRNB Live, Mary Hanson, American Atheist, LaRouche Connection, TC Muzique, Judy Corrao Show, Black Aquarium, Black Music America, Accent on Art, Conservative Roundtable, Turn or Burn, The Hidden Truth, Purple Funk, Viva & Jerry's Country Videos, Video Voices, Ethiopian TV, Lao TV, Perils for Pedestrians and Democracy Now.



## Minneapolis Neighborhood News

In partnership with the Neighborhood Revitalization Program, MTN staff producer John Akre continued to produce the Minneapolis Neighborhood News. The 30-minute programs highlight the beauty and strength of our City. Some of the events and stories featured this year include the South Minneapolis Teen Job Fair, an open house along the Humboldt Greenway,

Standish Ericsson Neighborhood Association's 10th Anniversary party, Bryn Mawr neighborhood's garden tour, new playgrounds at Lake Hiawatha and in the Holland neighborhood, the opening of the Eastside Neighborhood Services building in the Bottineau Neighborhood, the grand opening of the East Village Housing Development, a bridge project in the Tangletown neighborhood, the opening of the Urban League's new center, the grand opening of Shingle Creek Commons, the installation of pedestrian-level streetlights in the Field Regina Northrop neighborhood, a visit to two houses featured in the Minneapolis Saint Paul Home Tour and the grand re-opening of the Linden Hills neighborhood library.



## Working with Youth for Fourteen Years



Since 1988, MTN has continued to train youth in television production and media literacy. Our emphasis is on extensive and quality training. All final projects are played on the MTN community channels. This year our work was supported by the City of Minneapolis, Time Warner Cable, the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Forum and the Listen Up Youth Project. Participants included Minneapolis South High students, The City Inc North and South Campus, Phillips Community TV, Americorps Youthworks, Emerson School, Fairview Park, the HAAS Program, the Girl Scouts of Greater Minneapolis, Glenwood Lyndale Community Center and the Tibetan Youth Initiative.

## Equal Access For All

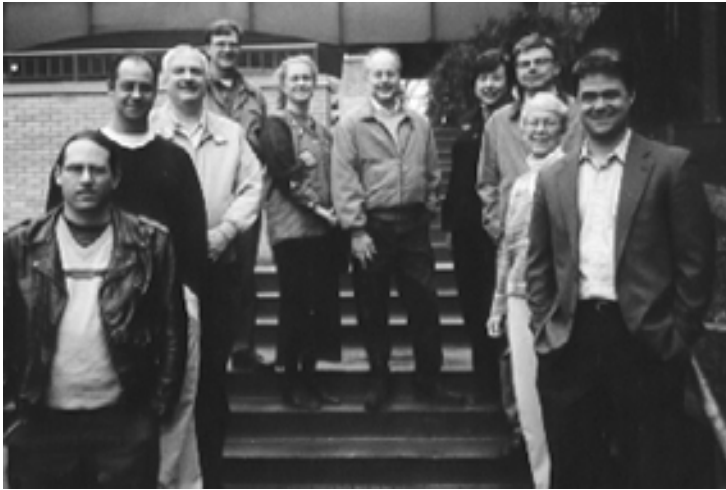


**Green Party park board candidates  
hosted by Annie Young.**



**Joan Higinbotham of the League of Women Voters  
hosts a mayoral debate between  
R.T. Rybak and Sharon Sayles Belton.**

During the 2001 election cycle, MTN made a concerted effort to inform and educate voters utilizing our cable channels. As in the past, many candidates participated as guests on television programs made by our community producers. In addition, MTN did a special mailing to all registered candidates. Explaining how public access works and providing information about our classes, equipment and channel time. Finally, we invited candidates to come to our studio and tape a 30-minute message about their candidacy for a minimal cost. Our outreach was successful. Citizens watching MTN were able to hear the ideas of Mayoral, City Council, Park Board and Library Board, as well as statewide candidates.



## Board of Directors

Mark Engebretson-Chair  
 Vusumuzi Zulu-Vice Chair  
 Joan Higinbotham-Treasurer  
 Tomas Gonda- Secretary  
 Floyd Child  
 Cristina Stoeckel  
 Tamir Nolley  
 Julie Wallace  
 Robert Vose

### Ex Officio Members

Edie French  
*City of Minneapolis*  
 Lance Leupold  
*Time Warner Cable*  
 Leo McCafferty  
*Minneapolis Public Schools*

## Financial Statement

<b>Public Support &amp; Revenues</b>	<b>2001</b>
<u>Cable Access Fee (Time Warner)</u>	312,124
<u>Franchise Fee (City of Mpls.)</u>	278,534
<u>Production Services</u>	79,668
<u>Training</u>	25,799
<u>Interest Income</u>	16,899
<u>Youth Initiative</u>	12,750
<u>Memberships</u>	11,046
<u>Sub-Lease</u>	7,236
<u>Miscellaneous.</u>	7,161
<b><u>Total Revenues</u></b>	<b><u>751,217</u></b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<u>Salaries</u>	405,419
<u>Facilities- St. Anthony Main</u>	122,219
<u>Benefits/unemployment/FICA</u>	51,945
<u>Production Expenses</u>	35,549
<u>Insurance</u>	32,264
<u>Miscellaneous.</u>	31,425
<u>Phone, postage,newsletter,supplies</u>	27,010
<u>Maintenance: Parts &amp; Services</u>	15,000
<u>Professional Fees</u>	14,868
<u>Depreciation Expense</u>	5,626
<u>Public Relations</u>	
4,4675.	
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b><u>745,792</u></b>
<b><u>Income/Expense (under)</u></b>	<b><u>5,425</u></b>

Note: This condensed statement of revenue and expense has been abstracted from the organizations's Financial Statements, for the year ending December 31, 2001. Because this information does not include all of the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles, it is not intended to present the financial position of the organization. A copy of the audited statements will be provided upon request.

## Syretha Mitchell



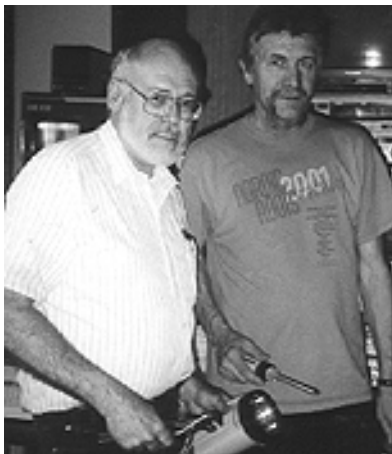
Syretha Mitchell, our beloved receptionist of six years passed away on December 16, 2001. Just a few nights before she and her husband had participated in the "Celebrate MTN" live cablecast. Everyone who called MTN or walked down the hall by her office remembers Syretha, her smile, and her font of advice and wisdom. She is missed at MTN.

## Inner City Fishing



In 2002, City Pages named *InnerCityFishing* the BEST PUBLIC-ACCESS CABLE TV PROGRAM. City Pages wrote, "Since the spring of 1998, south Minneapolis's Anderson brothers (Pat, Mike, and Ricky) have been quietly cranking out the most entertaining fishing show you'll find anywhere—let alone on public-access television."

## Keeping MTN Working



Chief Engineer Jim Derks (right) and Production Coordinator/Assistant Engineer Art Roy (left).

MTN is proud and fortunate to have a knowledgeable and dedicated staff. Together Art Roy and Jim Derks have put in 31 years serving community producers at MTN. MTN has a solid reputation of equipment that works and **KEEPS WORKING** thanks to Jim and Art!

## Welcoming New Members



Children from the Star Program watch themselves on TV.

MTN's strength is our Membership. Our goal is to keep it fresh, diverse and evolving. Last year, MTN conducted 26 free introductory workshops in which citizens were educated about community television. Many of those attendees went on to sign up for classes and produce programs. Beyond our Introductory Workshops, we hosted a number of visitors, including local youth groups, non-profit organizations and foreign media guests of the International Center.