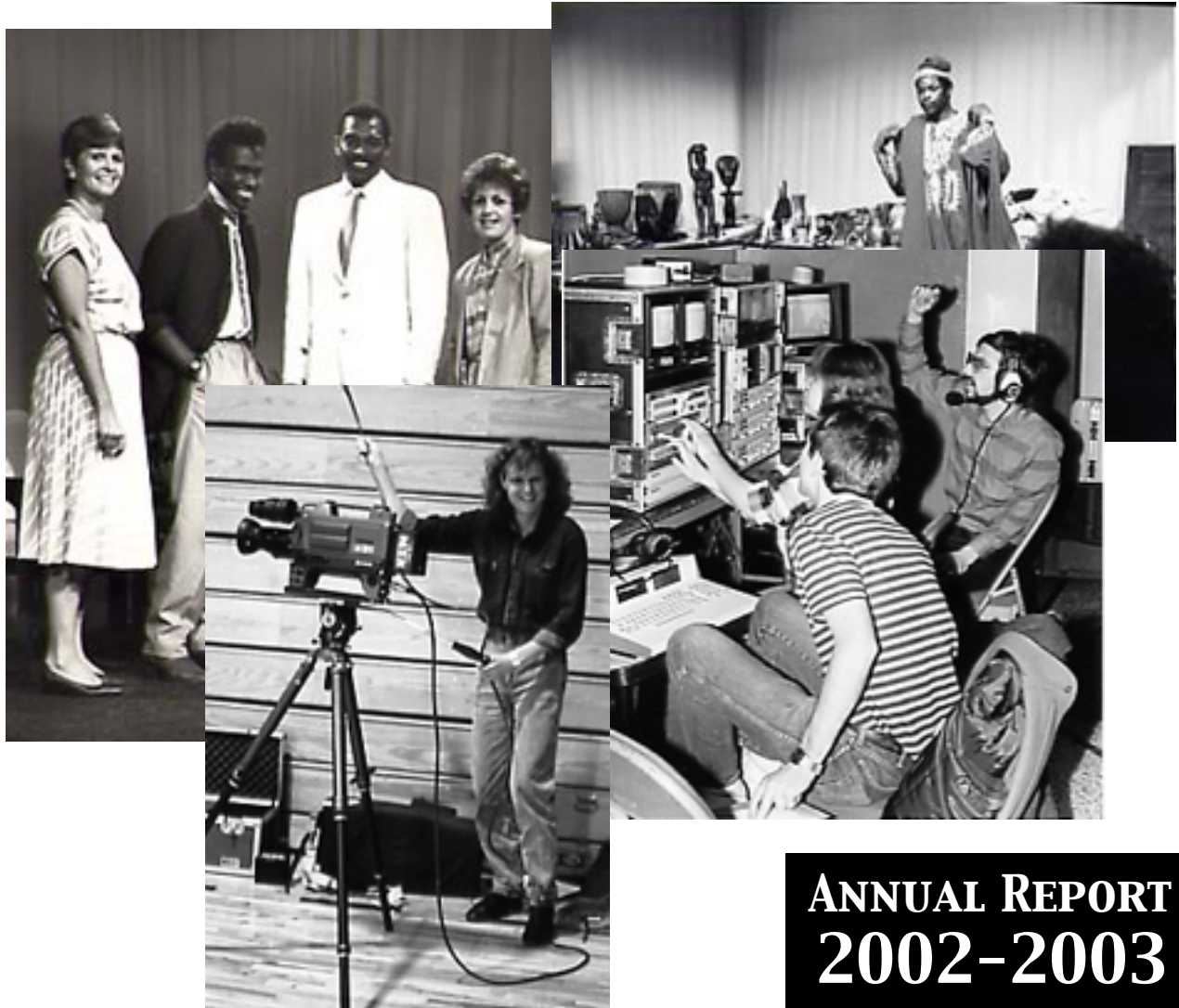


# Minneapolis Telecommunications Network

celebrating

# 20 YEARS



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2002-2003**

## Media for the People by the People

**Celebrating our Past  
Preparing for  
our Future**

This year we celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we'd like to take the opportunity to reflect on our past and prepare for our future. We are thankful to Mayor Don Fraser and those serving on the Minneapolis City Council in 1983 for securing our future in the franchise agreement with Rogers Cable. The franchise agreement has allowed community television to survive and thrive in Minneapolis.

The primary work of our board in the coming year will be to participate and represent public access in the franchise renewal process.

In April of 2003, we brought together many of the founders of MTN for a special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. In doing so, we were pleased to learn that we have met and surpassed many of their expectations for public access in our city.

On our channels on any given day you can find a broad spectrum of our citizens: the voices of new immigrants, high school students, musicians, political activists, spiritual leaders, senior citizens, and many, many more.

This Annual Report is a snapshot of some of the people that make public access work in Minneapolis. Each day we welcome new producers to our organization. MTN truly is a place where creativity flourishes among diverse minds.

Our mission statement reads, "MTN strengthens community by encouraging creation of and access to programs and information using electronic technology. MTN supports freedom of expression for all."

As we complete our 20<sup>th</sup> year, we as Board and Staff, vow to continue to live up to this, our mission.

-Robert Vose and Pamela Colby



**Robert Vose  
MTN Board Chair**



**Pamela Colby  
Executive Director**

## Staff Award

In July of 2003, the Alliance for Community Media (ACM) awarded Tarek (J.C.) Bagdadi the Jewell Ryan-White Award. The award is given annually to a community media staff person who shows an outstanding contribution to a process that encourages, facilitates, or creates culturally diverse and/or non-mainstream involvement in the field of community media

As Senior Production Manager, J.C. is the center of the MTN production wheel. For seventeen years he has served as a steadfast and articulate defender of our organization's free speech mission. J.C. has been instrumental in assisting our many new immigrant producers as they adapt to the rigors of television production while acclimating to Minnesota.

The ACM is a nonprofit, national membership organization that represents over 1,000 Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access organizations and community media centers throughout the country.



**J.C. Bagdadi-MTN Staff**

## Voices of our Newest Citizens

### **Is the Most Vital Television News in the Cities Taking Place on Cable Access? City Pages-August 27, 2003**

In the past year, MTN experienced a new wave of programs produced by our newest citizens. In August of 2003, our local paper *City Pages* printed a story featuring MTN's Somali producers. This is what the article said about producer Abdulkadeer Osman: "As he straddles the line between being a social pioneer and traditional patriarch,

Osman hews to his original vision of using public television as a means to educate Somali people. When he first aired Somali TV in 1997, Osman already had two years of experience as a teacher and Somali Interpreter at Hennepin County Medical Center. A Former USAID employee in Somalia, he says he saw the need to reach more than five or six Somalis a day with important cultural and health information. That's when he learned about MTN, a moment he describes as "guidance from Allah."

--Jeremy O'Kasick, City Pages



**MTN producers spoke on a panel at the Alliance for Community Media conference in February 2003.**

## Working with Youth for Fifteen 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. New projects in 2003 included Media Smart Youth, a collaboration with the Girl Scouts which focused on healthy eating choices, and Contact Plus, a collaboration with the YWCA which focused on helping youth make informed decisions regarding their sexual health.

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. Additional 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, Webster School, Glenwood Lyndale Community Center, Plymouth Youth Christian (PYC), and Minnesota Transition High School.



**Girls from the Media Smart Youth program at MTN**

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## Programming

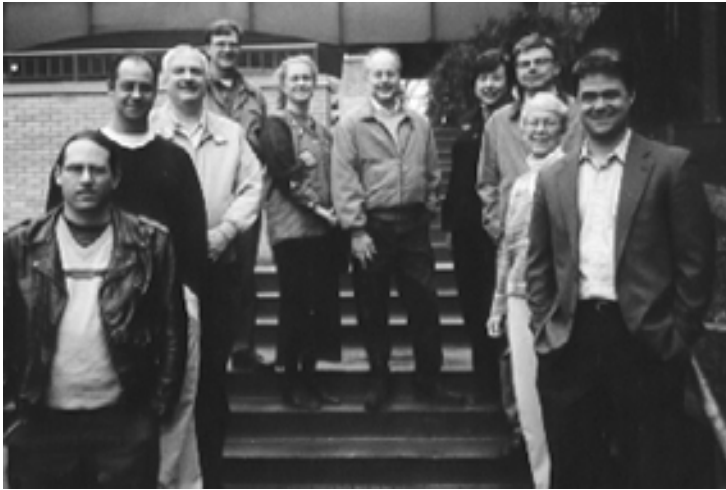


**Ray Whebbe's family at MTN memorial**



**Mary Hanson with South High girls**

The MTN public access channels are 16, 17 and 75 on the Time Warner Cable system in Minneapolis. Currently, we have 500 member producers who submit programming. Each week we have 170 series programs on our channels. Each year MTN has 250 programs submitted individually that are not a part of a series program. We staff an operator at our playback facility 147 hours per week. Our nightly programming begins at 5:00 pm and runs until midnight every day of the week. We then show a taped repeat of this programming. This allows us to have programming on the channels 24 hours per day.



## Board of Directors

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

### Ex Officio Members

John Harrison  
*City of Minneapolis*  
 Lance Leupold  
*Time Warner Cable*  
 Leo McCafferty  
*Minneapolis Public Schools*

## Financial Statement

Public Support & Revenues	2002
<u>Time Warner/City of Minneapolis</u>	566,938
<u>Production Services</u>	41,684
<u>Training</u>	14,032
<u>Interest Income</u>	7,137
<u>Youth Initiative</u>	22,800
<u>Memberships</u>	12,119
<u>Sub-Lease</u>	8,904
<u>Gain on Fixes Assets</u>	321
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	7,161
<b><u>Total Revenues</u></b>	<b>681,096</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<u>Salaries</u>	364,339
<u>Payroll Taxes</u>	36,509
<u>Facilities- St. Anthony Main</u>	150,577
<u>Benefits/unemployment/FICA</u>	30,549
<u>Production Expenses</u>	30,848
<u>Insurance</u>	31,121
<u>Professional Fees</u>	13,888
<u>Phone, postage,newsletter,supplies</u>	21,806
<u>Maintenance: Parts &amp; Services</u>	6,275
<u>Cleaning</u>	2,440
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	1,455
<b><u>Total Expenses</u></b>	<b>689,807</b>
<b><u>Income/Expense (under)</u></b>	<b>(8,711)</b>

Note: This condensed statement of revenue and expense has been abstracted from the organization's financial statement for the year ending December 31, 2002. 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.

**On April 11, 2003  
MTN celebrated our  
20th Anniversary!**

