



Boston Neighborhood Network

Celebrating
Silver

25 Years of Media Access and Excellence

For immediate release

BNN Brings ‘Peace Day’ to Boston TV

BOSTON NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK DEVOTES 24 HOURS TO PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE ON AUGUST 22

“At the center of nonviolence stands the principle of love.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929 - 1968)

“All we are saying is give peace a chance.”

— John Lennon (1940 - 1980)

“I want every resident of every Boston community to be safe and feel safe, and I’m committed to making this happen.”

— Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Boston, MA — **Boston Neighborhood Network** launches a campaign for peace on Saturday, **August 22** with a 24-hour cablecast devoted to peace, nonviolence and a ceasefire in our neighborhoods. Beginning at **noon**, BNN will preempt regular programming and transform one of its cable channels into a vessel for **“PEACE DAY: Stop the Violence, Start to Love.”**

A continuous mix of films, live and pre-recorded panel discussions and interviews, and inspirational messages from local and national leaders will run on **BNN’s News and Information Channel** (Comcast 9 | RCN 15), and will be **streamed live** on the web (www.bnntv.org) to reach people across the country and around the world. Each segment of the 24-hour PEACE DAY programming will then be rerun on Saturday evenings at 7pm from August 29th through the end of September on BNN’s News and Information Channel, and will also be included in the **BNN Community Channel** (Comcast 23|RCN 83) programming lineup.

BNN is collaborating with the **Boston TenPoint Coalition** to invite Boston youth and adults to create peace in themselves and in their community. A ‘Declaration of Hope’ pledge will allow Boston youth to speak to their hopes, dreams and aspirations. The document will then be circulated around the city for signatures.

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, said, “BNN’s 24-hour cablecast for peace, non-violence and a ceasefire is an important event in the city of Boston and an example of what can happen when citizens take the initiative to speak up and speak out for peace in our city. I’d like to thank Boston Neighborhood Network and the Boston TenPoint Coalition for making this PEACE DAY cablecast a reality.”

“PEACE DAY is being produced for BNN by nationally acclaimed film and television producer **Topper Carew**, in association with Boston TenPoint,” said Curtis Henderson Jr., BNN General Manager. “We are extremely grateful for the vision they bring to this effort. Throughout the day a diverse cross section of

Boston community, faith, youth, and political leaders will add their voices in support of peace and nonviolence. We hope young people will receive our message and understand that we love and care about them.”

Some of the notables who will participate in PEACE DAY include Mayor Menino; Rev. Michael Haynes, retired pastor of Twelfth Baptist and long-time youth mentor; Gregory G. Groover Sr., Pastor, Charles Street AME and Chris Bynum, head of the mayor's youth initiative.

“PEACE DAY programs will offer viewers an analysis of past and present problems, and share visions of a more just and equitable future for our youth,” said Carew. “It is imperative that we add credibility, legitimacy and authenticity to the project by including young voices and viewpoints.

Critical messages will be delivered through compelling films and programs, including Carew’s “A Dream Deferred” world television premier and “The Maggot,” his award-winning, animated, anti-drug film; “Looking for Peace,” by youth filmmakers from Hyde Square Task Force; “Shot in the Hood,” by Bill Willis, Boston policeman; and “Jamal's Vision,” by Mike King, about Jamal Norfleet, who was killed while trying to negotiate peace.

Three provocative video spots are running on both BNN channels to reach youth and adults. Following the TV event, the spots will be adapted as public service announcements and paired with an invitation to take the ‘Declaration of Hope’ pledge.

Carew, a native of Roxbury and Jamaica Plain resident, who recently was designated as one of BNN’s first National Media Heroes to kick-off its year-long ‘**Celebrating Silver: 25 Years of Media Access and Excellence**’ campaign, is working with BNN on a series of original programs through the coming year.

BNN gratefully acknowledges youth program support provided by The Boston Foundation, State Street Foundation, Yawkey Foundation II, Carl and Ruth Shapiro Family Foundation, Boston ROCKS Community Grants, StreetSafe Boston Summer Grants, and Boston Youth Fund.

For more information please visit our website at www.bnntv.org, or call 617.708.3224.

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***Link to PEACE DAY video spots:** <http://vimeo.com/5843194>

- “Don't devour our young.”
- “No guns, no knives, no bullets.”
- “Stop the violence. Start to love.”

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Declaration of Hope

We, as the young people of Boston, who are in fact this and the next generation, have high hopes and reasonable dreams for a good life, dignity and respect.

We hope for the kind of just and fair future that all Americans are guaranteed by the Constitution; the rights to a job, a good education, and equality for all young people.

We hope for an end to racism so that all young people might have an equal opportunity to make it, and not be racially profiled or stereotyped, and have the chance to play on a level playing field.

We hope for an end to poverty so that all young people can have a decent place to live, nutritious food, and decent clothing.

We hope that the justice system will treat us equally and fairly and not see us as statistics, and help those of us who fall down to get back up and rebuild new and positive lives.

We hope that society will see us as human beings; that we care about children, our women, parents and our elders.

We hope that someday we can stop the violence and begin to love all of our brothers and sisters as we should love ourselves.

Finally, we hope that Boston will hear us and stand with us.

Signed: