

Our organization, Somali-American Community, is dedicated to serving the diverse needs of the Somali American community in Minnesota. We aim to promote a deeper understanding of Somalian culture, and the role of this ethnic community in America. We will advance the spirit of friendship between Somali Americans and the American community at-large, and support the interests of Somali Americans in the United States who care about their adopted community in America and their historical homeland. We will operate an educational radio station, among other outreach efforts, to help strengthen the Somali-American community and improve our ties with the neighborhoods we live in.

The Programming of Somali-American Community will further the educational purposes described in our mission in the following ways. Our programming will be bilingual, which will help members of our community who are not fluent in English to become familiar with English while referring back to their mother tongue. This will be good for improving the English of older listeners who are native Somali speakers. It will also help younger Somali-Americans to hear programming in both languages, so they do not lose the ability to speak the language of their parents. It is well known that developing and retaining fluency in languages requires frequent exposure, and we see great importance in using the radio station to help in retaining the use of the Somali language in our community and creating opportunities to improve the English of our community by playing programming in both languages. In the absence of broadcasts like what we propose, there are few opportunities in Minnesota to be exposed to the spoken Somali language.

Other programs of interest to the Somali community will include educational programs designed to help immigrants understand American social norms, prepare them for a wide range of careers, explain the American health care system, and highlight opportunities that Somalis may not have been aware of. There will be programs about what is required for starting small businesses in the USA, news about immigration issues, call-in shows where people can ask questions of various experts, and interview shows that will highlight the wide variety of members of the Somali community. The station will

also have regular reporting on current affairs in Somalia and neighboring nations. We also hope that the station will serve as a bridge for the many non-profit organizations and businesses in Minnesota who would like to know the Somali community better, but who are currently unable to connect due to language and different social networks.

We also plan to feature the best new and traditional music from Somalia, which we believe people from all communities- not just Somalis- of Minneapolis will be excited to hear, appreciate and enjoy. We look forward to the opportunity to broadcast live from local festivals and have the voices on the air of many Somalis living in Minneapolis.

The Somali American Community, Inc, filed as a non-profit in our state on 6/24/2008.