

SYRACUSE METRONET, INC.

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTING AND BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Syracuse MetroNet is the leading municipal technology facilitation and planning organization in Syracuse and Central New York. Its mission is to use advanced telecommunications infrastructure to positively impact the economic opportunity, equity of access and quality of life available to Central New Yorkers.

During 2011, Syracuse MetroNet continued to actively work to identify and implement initiatives to lower costs and/or increase benefits for their organizations and to explore ways of benefitting the Central New York Community through the effective and efficient use of technology. Through Syracuse MetroNet, members were able to save thousands of dollars in network connectivity and Internet costs. Additionally, Syracuse MetroNet expanded its mission to include facilitating cooperation and partnerships among both public and private organizations to advance technology for the benefit of the entire community, with particular emphasis on the underserved.

During the past year, Syracuse MetroNet also continued to:

- ◆ Enable members to take advantage of the benefits of Syracuse MetroNet membership, including access to bulk buying power; the ability to link to an area-wide Community VLAN which securely and economically connects all member organizations; and access to seminars, workshops and technology information sessions.
- ◆ Enable members to have an opportunity to shape and impact the development of technological capabilities, resources and infrastructure in Central New York. MetroNet provides the capability to have a voice in the technological future of the area.
- ◆ Provide a unique forum for the exchange of ideas and solutions to technology problems and act as a catalyst for technology innovation and a repository of technology information in the community. MetroNet provides the community with a platform for using technology to benefit the economic opportunity and quality of life available to Central New Yorkers, especially among the underserved.
- ◆ Benefit the entire community by focusing the collective knowledge of local technology professionals toward solving community issues.
- ◆ Support websites for community programs such as davincijobs.com, a one-stop resource for finding career opportunities in Central New York, and virtualccc.com, a virtual college and career center allowing individuals to explore a wide variety of college and career opportunities.

During 2012, Syracuse MetroNet will:

- ◆ Partner with the Syracuse Community Broadband Initiative to explore the possibility of building a community-owned fiber network in the Syracuse area for the benefit of residents, businesses and healthcare, educational, government and community-based organizations. This network will deliver ultra high-speed connectivity at a lower cost than is currently available and will be built on the model that has been successfully implemented in many other metropolitan areas. Such a network will provide local control over programming, quality of service, infrastructure and pricing as well as make available a wide variety of new resources for the benefit of the entire community.
- ◆ Work in concert with various neighborhood efforts such as Syracuse University's South Side Initiative and the Near West Side Initiative to explore ways of providing technology for community support. The organization will also work with Syracuse University to develop cost open-source applications which will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local community-based organizations while lowering their technology costs.
- ◆ Open a new West Side Community Technology Center on Seymour Street in cooperation with Huntington Family Centers which will utilize technology to provide a variety of support services to residents of all ages in the area.





Syracuse MetroNet

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