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It is with great sadness that The Peoples Channel and Durham Community Media mourns the loss of one of its founders and a great leader, Dr. Robert J. "Bob" Gwyn. The TPC/DCM community would like to express its deepest condolences to his wife Martha and the entire Gwyn family for their loss. Bob was instrumental in the creation of The Peoples Channel and his ceaseless support of the station and the benefits his work garnered for our community are immeasurable.

In 2006, TPC honored Dr. Gwyn for his many years of service when he retired as President of TPC's Board of Directors. "Bob was a mentor to me when I started at TPC," Chad Johnston, Executive Director recalls. "He knew every detail about the history, the infinite fine points of the local politics, and had this fire inside of him for the organization that was palpable. His passion for TPC was almost intimidating, but it was also immensely exciting to be surrounded by such positive energy."

The Peoples Channel and Durham Community Media would like to announce the Dr. Bob Gwyn Scholarship Fund in his memory. Contributions in Dr. Gwyn's name will help create a scholarship fund to support training programs and supplies for youth and nonprofit organizations. The Peoples Channel will also be highlighting programs in which Dr. Gwyn helped produce or support over the coming weeks. For more information, visit: [www.thepeopleschannel.org](http://www.thepeopleschannel.org) or contact Chad Johnston at 919.960.0088.

A Brief History of The Peoples Channel:

In the early 1990's a small group of concerned community members and media activists organized for better Community Access in Chapel Hill. In 1996 Robert Gwyn, Eva Metzger and Vimala Rajendran signed the incorporation papers that created The Peoples Channel (TPC) as a non-profit organization.

The founders helped organize public support for a community-run organization, responsive to community needs, to be the operator of public access for Chapel Hill. Previously, Time Warner Cable had been the operator, but community members wanted a local organization to be guardian of such an important community resource.

After a long struggle, many meetings, and much hard work, Time Warner Cable agreed to give \$80,000 as start up capital for equipment and to add a "Public Access" fee to each cable bill in Chapel Hill to fund the operations. Volunteers and supporters worked for many months to build and design the facility and in May of 1998, The Peoples Channel opened its doors and went live on channel 8."

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