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Name: Johnny Gifford
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My name is Johnny Gifford, Executive Director of Brattleboro Community Television. We are the community media center serving southern Windham county.

Please support the Vermont Access Network with a base appropriation of \$1.35 million in fiscal year 2026, as part of a 3-year funding plan we've developed in consultation with the Secretary of State's office. The work we do for our community has the power to change lives, anywhere from connecting citizens to their local Selectboard meeting to teaching community members the latest technologies and digital literacy skills.

One of our members just released a documentary about a family-owned lumber mill that shut down after 87 years in the community. She did this entirely using BCTV's equipment, facilities and guidance over the course of two years, and now it is selling out screenings across southeast Vermont and is scheduled to show in the main theater of the historic Latchis Theater this weekend. Seeing where she is now, we feel like proud parents. Her film has brought family and community together in meaningful ways, and has brought new, inspired members to our center who want to tell stories.

Her work and the work that the rest of our staff, board and members do would not be possible without years of funding from Comcast cable, but as that declines, funding from the state of Vermont is becoming increasingly important. Thank you for your consideration of supporting the Vermont Access Network with a base appropriation of \$1,350,000 in fiscal year 2026, as part of a 3-year funding plan developed in consultation with the Secretary of State's office.

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