



Biographical Information

Submitted by Derek Grace

As president of GRACE Media Group, Derek Grace has produced documentaries and promotional videos for the past 20 years. Before pursuing a career in video production, Derek spent 10 years as a computer programmer and systems engineer with IBM Corporation. Derek received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from UCLA, and a Masters of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He served on the board of directors for Chicago Access Network Television for several years.

Derek has been passionately involved and deeply committed to youth programs for many years. He has produced several video projects dealing with day-to-day issues facing teenagers. He is committed to programs and ideas that bring about positive social change particularly those aimed at youth.

Derek won a hometown video award for his documentary, *Long Live the SPIRIT!* The documentary chronicled the historic "Million Man March." He also co-produced an award winning documentary about the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Chicago. Along with his cousin, David Grace, Derek was awarded the "Outstanding Achievement Award for a Documentary" for *Pirate Pride* by the African American Arts Alliance of Chicago. The documentary examined the winning basketball tradition at Proviso East High School in Maywood, IL.

Derek is the producer and director of *ON THE FRONTLINE: Taking Back Our Streets*, an award winning documentary which addresses some of the causes, effects and solutions to the senseless gun violence that continues to plague the Chicago metropolitan area.