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**PAUL RUSESABAGINA, REAL-LIFE HERO OF  
“HOTEL RWANDA,” IS FEATURED SPEAKER  
AT THE “CELEBRATE THE DREAM” TRIBUTE  
TO DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
7 P.M. THURSDAY, JAN. 15**

**Presented by Minneapolis Community and Technical College  
Exclusively Sponsored by Target**

**Note to Media: Paul Rusesabagina will also be meeting with MCTC students at 1 p.m. Jan. 15 in the Whitney Fine Arts Center and will be available for interviews.**

Minneapolis, Dec. XX ---Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) will present “Celebrate the Dream,” its 19<sup>th</sup> annual birthday tribute to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 15, at the Basilica of St. Mary, 16<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin Ave., Minneapolis. (Doors open at 6 p.m. Event free and open to the public with free parking in the MCTC parking ramp.)

This year’s theme is “The Power of Giving.” The keynote speaker will be Paul Rusesabagina, the Rwandan hotel manager who held insanity at bay for two months in 1994 as he watched his country fall into the grips of genocide. His story as the manager of a luxury hotel in Rwanda was dramatically told in the film, “Hotel Rwanda,” featuring Don Cheadle.

Music will be performed at the tribute by the Grammy-awarding-winning “Sounds of Blackness,” who will present excerpts from “Music for Martin.” Former television anchor and longtime Twin Cities journalist Roxane Battle will be the host of the event at which 2,000 people are expected.

“Paul Rusesabagina is a shining example of how one person can make a huge difference in the lives of hundreds, perhaps thousands of others, just as Dr. King made a difference,” said MCTC President Phil Davis. “Both men illustrate the importance of the theme of ‘The Power of Giving.’ Their dreams and their real life experiences are at the core of what we try to do here by making education—and the chance for a better life—accessible to the entire community.”

As part of “The Power of Giving,” MCTC’s Center for Civic Engagement will sponsor an MLK Day of Service on Saturday, January 17. On that day, 100 students, staff, faculty and members of the community will volunteer to help address important needs faced by families in our community. In conjunction with Target and Hands on Twin Cities, volunteers will provide children’s books and services to People Serving People, Simpson Housing Services, Bundles of Love and Arc of the Greater Twin Cities.

“This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year Target has supported MCTC’s ‘Celebrate the Dream’ birthday tribute,” said Laysha Ward, president, community relations, Target. “As a company, we are dedicated to supporting and practicing Dr. King’s values of equality, respect, and service and continue to honor his memory through volunteerism and community giving.”

### **Paul Rusesabagina and the Hotel Rwanda**

In 1994, Rusesabagina sheltered over 1,200 people from the Rwandan genocide in the hotel he managed in the capital city of Kigali. In doing so, he saved their lives at a time when extremists massacred more than 800,000 members of the Tutsi and moderate Hutu tribes in just 100 days. Now, through emotionally stirring words, he shares his story firsthand in the hope that future events of this type can be prevented. “I hope this will be a wakeup call, not only for Rwanda, but the whole international community,” he said.

### **The Sounds of Blackness**

Since 1971, the Sounds of Blackness has taken audiences around the world on a musical journey through the history of African-American music: Jazz, Blues, Spirituals, Rock & Roll, R & B, Gospel, Hip-Hop and Soul. They present the music of the African-American experience with positive messages and lyrics.

### **About MCTC:**

MCTC is the most ethnically diverse college in Minnesota. A member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, MCTC offers student a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum and more than 60 career and occupational programs designed to prepare people for good jobs in high demand professions. Located in downtown Minneapolis, MCTC enrolls more than 12,000 students annually and is an active partner in initiatives to strengthen the social, economic and cultural vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

### **About Target:**

Minneapolis-based Target Corporation (NYSE:TGT) serves guests at 1,684 stores in 48 states nationwide and at Target.com. Target is committed to providing a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to unique and highly differentiated products at affordable prices. Since 1946, the corporation has given 5 percent of its income through community grants and programs like Take Charge of Education. Today, that giving equals more than \$3 million a week.