



e-VT Richford Re-Cap

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is a partnership between seven statewide organizations and leaders in two dozen Vermont towns to help close the digital divide through innovative use of Internet tools and training. Initiatives in Richford were spearheaded by the Richford Economic Advancement Corporation (REAC) in conjunction with the Arvin A. Brown Library, NOTCH, town government, Richford Elementary School, Richford High School, and other organizations. In just over a year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Richford:

- Forty-four netbook packages for Richford Elementary School, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridge, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to ensure that every student in grade 5 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grade 5;
- A free community e-newsletter at frontporchforum.com that 95 subscribers in Richford (out of 900 households in town) have used more than 230 times to buy and trade household items, promote local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses;
- One iPad, three desktops with Microsoft Office and warranties, and 22" monitors at the Arvin A. Brown Library to help more community members and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- Three workshops on the topics of *Basic Internet Skills*, *Social Media and Communication*, and *Internet Safety Basics* conducted by Vermont State Colleges at Richford High School for a total of 19 Richford residents;
- A workshop on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at Richford High School for business owners and entrepreneurs;
- One-on-one assistance from the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Richford businesses undertaking website redesigns and developing online marketing strategies;
- Peer-to-peer web development assistance which resulted in new and updated websites for NOTCH, Richford Country Club, and Green Heron Farm;
- A new printer/scanner/fax machine for the municipal office;

- A new platform for the Front Porch Forum e-newsletter that includes a comprehensive web-based community calendar, synthesizing all community events into one central place and freely allowing them to be displayed on local websites;
- For teachers, a complete program of lesson and unit plans, worksheets, Internet links, advice, instruction, video tutorials, and grant writing resources so that cutting edge classroom education can continue in 2012-2013 and beyond;
- Ongoing webinars for businesses and individuals, available at e4vt.org;
- A tool kit of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices, available at e4vt.org;
- Regional workshops, a statewide conference, and continuing programs of e-Vermont partner organizations.

e-Vermont congratulates the Richford team for its collaboration and accomplishments over the past year and wishes them well in continuing to close the digital divide, use Internet tools to advance local goals, and serve as a model for rural towns all over Vermont and across the United States.

Please stay posted on future developments by visiting e-Vermont at www.e4vt.org and by following e-Vermont on Facebook (e-Vermont).

-Seán Sheehan, e-Vermont Community Director
May 22, 2012