



e-VT Hardwick 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 Hardwick were spearheaded by NEKAarts / Hardwick Town House, Jeudevine Memorial Library, Hardwick Community Television, the Center for an Agricultural Economy, Hardwick town government and other organizations. In just over a year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Hardwick:

- Fifty netbook packages for Hardwick Elementary School, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridges, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to ensure that every student in grade 6 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grade 6;
- 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;
- A free online neighborhood forum at frontporchforum.com that 284 subscribers in Hardwick-Walden (out of 1610 households in the two towns) have used more than 852 times to buy and trade household items, promote events and volunteer needs, discuss local issues, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses;
- 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;
- Four Toshiba 15.6" Core i3 laptops, 3-year warranties and Deep Freeze software, one copy of Microsoft Office Standard, one 16GB iPad, one Nook Color with extended protection, one Kindle Touch 3G, one Kindle Fire, one barcode scanner, and one Canon PowerShot A2200 digital camera for the Jeudevine Memorial Library to help more community members and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Basic Internet Skills* and *Free Stuff Online* conducted by the Vermont State Colleges at Hazen Union High School for Hardwick residents;

- A Vermont State Colleges student Internet Intern providing assistance with Web searches and other basic computer tasks for Jeudevine Memorial Library patrons;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* and *Social Media Marketing* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at Hazen Union High School for business owners and entrepreneurs;
- One-on-one assistance from the Vermont Small Business Development Center resulting in a feature-rich redesign of the Vermont Food Venture Center's website and that incorporates the Center for an Agricultural Economy's web content ;
- A new printer/scanner/fax machine for use in the Hardwick Town Offices;
- Support for developing the Hardwick online tax map system that will allow 24/7 public searches of property information;
- Two Comcast, free, two-year, standard Internet connections – one for the Hardwick Town House and one for The Depot / Hardwick Historical Society;
- Two Cisco Linksys E2500 dual-band wireless routers - one for the Hardwick Town House and one for The Depot / Hardwick Historical Society;
- 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 Hardwick 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).

-Philip Petty, e-Vermont Community Director
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