



e-VT Moretown 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 Moretown were spearheaded by Moretown Elementary School, Moretown Memorial Library, town government, and other organizations and individuals. In just over a year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Moretown:

- Fifty netbook packages for Moretown Elementary School, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridge, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 – plus an additional six netbook packages purchased by the school – to ensure that every student in grades 4, 5, and 6 receives a 21st century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 4, 5, and 6;
- A free community e-newsletter at frontporchforum.com that 441 subscribers in Moretown (out of 700 households in town) have used more than 1,300 times to organize Tropical Storm Irene recovery efforts, buy and trade household items, promote local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses;
- Two desktops, two laptops with Microsoft Office, Deep Freeze, and extended warranties, 19" monitors, a subscription to the Vermont Online Libraries, and 8000 barcodes and two barcode scanners for the Moretown Memorial 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 Tools for Beginners*, and *Free Stuff on the Internet* conducted by Vermont State Colleges at Moretown Elementary School and attended by a total of 33 Moretown residents;
- One-on-one assistance from the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Moretown businesses establishing websites and developing online marketing strategies;
- A new municipal website – moretownvt.org – and a new part-time position of web manager to keep the site updated and cutting-edge;

- 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 Moretown 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 24, 2012