



# The Edge

Monthly Newsletter

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Professor John McKnight

## Building the Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband Community – From the Inside Edge Out

At last month's Annual Information Technology Summit, John McKnight, Keynote Speaker, presented a workshop entitled, *Recognizing the Strengths that Already Exist in Your Community*. Mr. McKnight is a professor of Communication Studies and Education & Social Policy at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and is the author of three books. For nearly three decades Professor McKnight has conducted research on social service delivery systems, health policy, community organizations, neighborhood policy, and institutional racism.

In his book, *Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*, Professor McKnight talks about how to transform troubled communities into vibrant ones by "mobilizing the capacities, skills and gifts of people" to impact change in a positive way.

McKnight believes that each person, regardless of age or gender, has a gift to offer their community and the world, and that the process of sharing our gifts is the basic tool for all community building. He postulates that since World War II "our institutions have focused on the need of people to be fixed or filled," and that we have designated the responsibility of "fixing" and "filling" our communities to agencies, rather than mobilizing people within the community for problem solving and productivity. As a result of this new approach we "have had much less progress in developing neighborhoods than we could have had."

In building the Inonoaklin Edgewood Broadband Community Network the Edgewood Community Internet Society has been successful in recognizing the key skills and capacities inherent in our community to create a resourceful team of trained and skilled individuals. As a result of our ability to 'build from the inside edge out' our society has been recognized as a community champion. We would like to thank our resourceful and skilled team of supporters.

The Edge would like to announce the winners of our refurbished computers, which we raffled off at our Phase 2 Celebration that was held on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Jada drew for Jack  
Thor drew for Tamara  
Mackenzie drew for Lois  
Congratulations!

Also a big thank you going out to Bill Dummett in helping to make this such a huge success!

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