JOHN MCKNIGHT

John McKnight is a professor of Communication Studies and Education and Social Policy at Northwestern. Mr. McKnight is co-author with John P. Kretzmann of "Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets". John McKnight has spoken at many events across Canada and has consulted with over 50 community and academic organizations and, such as at the Family Service Association of Toronto (FSA) (the largest and oldest family agency in Toronto), the Toronto Social Planning Council, the L'Arche Communities, and the Coady Institute in Halifax.

Selected Quotations

- "An emphasis on people's needs obscures people's abilities...in our society there is a relentless struggle between associational ways and system ways, and what we have seen in our time is the ascendance of systems over associations; and we see how the systems of service often isolate people. People want to set down some roots within a community and to feel it to be their home."

- "As we think about our community life, we recognize that something has happened to many of us as institutions have grown in power. We have become too impotent to be called real citizens and too disconnected to be effective members of community. There is a mistaken notion that our society has a problem in terms of effective human services. Our essential problem is weak communities. While we have reached the limits of institutional problem-solving, we are only at the beginning of exploring the possibility of a new vision for community. It is a vision of regeneration. It is a vision of re-associating the exiled. It is a vision of freeing ourselves from service and advocacy. It is a vision of centering our lives in community."

Online Materials:

- Professor John McKnight: About John McKnight and the Asset-Based Community Development Institute (2014)

- A Conversation with John McKnight, Co-Founder of the Asset-Based Community Development Institute (2019)

- John McKnight: Community and Its Counterfeits Podcast (2015)

Further reading

- Learning 37: ABCD, Jazz and the Structure of Powerful Communities (2020)
- Becoming Trustworthy (2020)

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