We have seen the enemy and it is us!

Our reputations precede us . . .

- Evaluation, as practiced by many university-based and other contract researchers, is often not helpful to service providers or residents of communities like those involved in Making Connections

- Poor working relationships with residents, community-based organizations, and public agencies are grounded in ownership issues that evaluators tend to ignore

- Findings of “no effect” may be attributable to our methods rather than the intrinsic efficacy of interventions
What Self-Evaluation Seeks to Avoid

- Adversarial relationships with service providers and consumers that grow out of evaluators’ professional roots in auditing and objective research methods.

- Detached scientists working at arm’s length to isolate the effects of silver-bullet interventions on changes in the behavior of individuals.

  The challenge is to assess whether a complex bundle of supports and services affects outcomes for individuals, families, and communities.

- Producing after-the-fact reports telling you where you went wrong . . . . two years ago!

- Something done to you rather than with you or by you.
• **Seeks to create a flow of information to support mid-course corrections and continuous improvements in outcomes**

  Evaluation is a process, not a report

• **Requires technical expertise to ensure defensibility and adaptability**

• **Assumes evaluation is most effective when it includes diverse perspectives**
  - Residents
  - Community-based organizations
  - Managers and staff of public agencies
  - Funders and policymakers
  - Evaluators
Expanding Self-Evaluation Into the Community

- Residents
- CBOs
- Public Agencies
- Evaluators
- Neighborhood And City Policymakers

LLP
Accountability Grounded in Self-Evaluation

- Evaluation is not auditing, auditing is not evaluation.

  You can be honestly ineffective

- Unless you can change policy and redirect resources based on what you learn, self-evaluation is merely an academic exercise.

There must be a “self” in self-evaluation!
Local and National Self-Evaluation

Local Interests

Making Connections

Foundation Interests

Making Connections Evaluation