

Dryden Blessings
February 18, 2009

About once every other month, I spend a day pretending I'm a carpenter. I work with an organization called Community Building Works! It's wonderful fun and I love their mission: *Providing high quality work experiences on high quality affordable housing, locally and internationally.*

I really got involved with CBW! because I wanted to learn some construction skills that I could use to work on my own home. Then I got to know the folks who invest so many hundreds of hours to this work and now I'm hooked. All it takes is willingness and messy clothes. They teach you everything else.

CBW! describes their work like this: "We build community capacity by providing green, affordable housing, locally and internationally, using volunteer labor. For every house we build in our community, we will build one in a developing country. Our use of volunteer labor empowers the community to address its affordable housing needs, empowers individuals by teaching them valuable job skills, and supports a sustainable business model."

It really is a perfect relationship: I get to tear out walls, learn to hang dry wall, and even use power tools I wouldn't normally consider buying; a family in our community has the opportunity to purchase a quality, affordable home. Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS) provides the pre-purchase counseling and financing locally. Then volunteers travel to an impoverished nation to build a house, "spread peace, and open the lines of communication between Americans and citizens of other countries, one family at a time."

For more information or to volunteer for Community Building Works! email my friend Sheila Squire at: ssquier@twcny.rr.com or check out their website at: www.communitybuildingworks.org. Give me a call—we can car pool!

Dryden Dairy Day: The Dryden Dairy Day Committee is looking to borrow old-fashioned one-quart glass milk bottles or two-quart mason jars for a fund raiser. If you have bottles or jars you are willing to loan or give to the Committee, send an email to chairwoman Brenda Carpenter at: btc6@cornell.edu. To keep current on the latest information, visit the Dairy Day website at: www.drydendairyday.org. Building up to this 25th annual home-town festival, committee members are hard at work and will be visiting your business soon to ask for your participation in various ways. You, too, can display one of our *Cows on the Moo...ve!*

"When I'm in Charge": What happens when your 8-11 year old finds him/herself home alone? It can happen to even the most organized parents. Empower your child to make good choices, enhance self-reliance, and prevent and prepare for emergencies. The American Red Cross and the Town of Dryden Recreation Department are sponsoring "When I'm in Charge." This 2½ hour workshop, is being held Saturday, March 14th, at the Dryden Town Hall, 93 E Main Street. Included with the \$15 registration fee is a certificate, guides and a kit. Registration forms were sent home with elementary school children and

should be returned to the Town Hall. For more information, contact Recreation Director Melissa Bianconi at 844-8888, Menu Option 4, or via email: recreation@dryden.ny.us.

Music Night at the Café: This Friday night, February 20th, from 7-9pm at the Dryden Community Center Café is promising to be a delightful evening featuring Tom & Marie. With Marie Shaver on bass guitar and Tom Quigley on guitar and vocals, this duet plays a selection of acoustic rock, bluegrass, folk, and blues. When the band gets to playing and the windows fog up, when the place is packed with folks from every generation and the conversation flows freely, when the coffee is poured and the deserts are served, the Café is the perfect small town gathering place. If you haven't stopped in on a Friday evening, you are really missing out!

Some of the events coming in the near future include: Nate & Kate Kids' Show on Saturday, February 21st at 3pm. *Songs, juggling, fun and silliness! (Suggested donation: \$2)* On Friday, February 27 enjoy the return of our own Dryden *Hall Pass*. They bring jazz standards, old-old blues and anything else they feel like playing! You can see the whole schedule on the Café website at: drydencafe.org.

Would you like to express your opinion to our Town leaders? Town of Dryden public committee meetings will be held on Wednesday, February 25th, 2009, at the Dryden Town Hall, 93 E. Main Street. The Technology Committee will be held at 8:30am. Then at 9:45 am will be the Loans and Grants Committee and the Finance Committee will convene at 11:00 am. For more information contact Town Supervisor Mary Ann Sumner at: 844-8888 or via email at: supervisor@dryden.ny.us.

Until next week, Blessings to you!