

THE LIFESAVER'S MESSAGES

When Barbie the Welder and I first talked about creating a commissioned statue for the Tri-County First Responders Honor Park in Gang Mills, NY, we wanted it to tell the story of the First Responder who rushed into danger to save a person. We settled on a firefighter rescuing a child, "The Lifesaver".

Barbie put her heart and soul into this work of art. She wanted it to be as iconic as the "Statue of Liberty". She accomplished that goal. Like Lady Liberty, it captures the meaning of the core values of America—we care about other people—their well-being, their human rights and their freedom.

As you look at that statue it tells its own story. That's what a good work of art does. It communicates an artist's expressed thoughts to the beholder. As an aside, art is a communications medium—in one instance, we use it to communicate our values to our children. If you find that concept hard to wrap your thoughts around, think about the negative messages our children get from the "negative arts", such as hate graffiti, street rap and some heavy metal music; with message such as "deny authority, kill, etc.". We must always strive to promote the positive arts.

As you gaze at the Lifesaver, you see a firefighter carrying a child. Obviously climbing down from an open window. The child is comforted and calm carrying its cherished pet stuffed animal, a rabbit. The hot air from the fire blows the curtains outward, indicating fire in the house. At night the window will be lit with a red spotlight to indicate fire while the lower part of the statue will be lit with daylight spotlights.



photo by Dick Perry

Many thanks to Barbie for enabling us to send the message to the world, "care for each other".

Donald B. Creath, Co-Chair
First Responders Honor Park Committee
Gang Mills, New York