Community Builders would like to recognize Ryan Levhin-Coon who participated in the MLK Service Challenge Day 2011. He along with three members of Commonwealth Corps of Western Massachusetts cooked a meal for caregivers and students with emotional limitations and illnesses from Communities of Care in Fitchburg, MA. Ryan is not only being spotlighted this month for giving his day to the North Central Massachusetts community or for additionally volunteering four hours a week at a halfway house in Worcester, but rather for his incredible passion and efforts to make his community a better place. A student at Clark University in Worcester studying Psychology and Music, Ryan had no form of transportation to get to Fitchburg for the MLK Service Challenge Day, so starting off at 7 a.m. Ryan biked nearly 30 miles in the morning to arrive in time for the MLK Challenge Day orientation!

When asked why he volunteers Ryan stated that "you have to give back…if you love something you have to give it away…giving back to people, particularly strangers you don't know, through acts of kindness is tremendously powerful."

When asked about biking an hour and 20 minutes in 25 degree weather from Worcester to Fitchburg to volunteer Ryan stated "to some people that may seem crazy, but when your toes are freezing you just have to keep in mind what you are biking to-the importance of the location. I had to get there how I could and I love to ride." Well Ryan, we here at Community Builders don't think you're crazy, we think you're a role model of citizenship and volunteerism for the Massachusetts community. Ryan truly is a Community Builder!