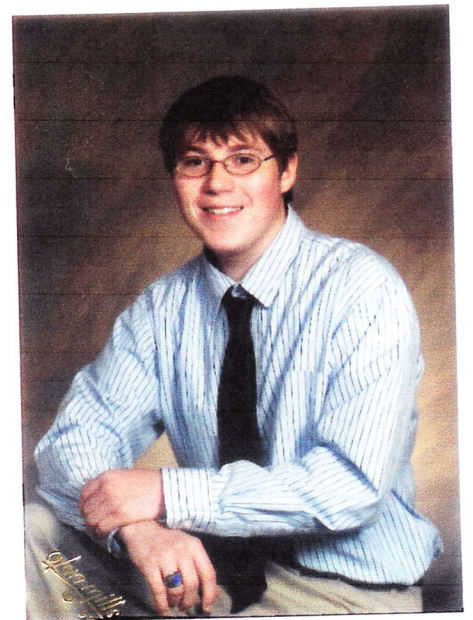


Building My Dreams

By

James Lawrence Johnston



My name is James Lawrence Johnston and I live in Malone, NY. I live with my parents and I have a sister. I am a senior at Franklin Academy and I have been accepted at SUNY Canton for the fall of 2008. In 2006, I began the Building Trades Class at the North Franklin Education Center in Malone, Ny. I learned my skills in the construction field from a great teacher named, Mr. Bill Laymon. I found that I have a real knack for building. For a class project we began building a garage for a local church. The church is the First Covenant Church. We started from nothing, just bare ground and worked very hard on the garage project. I learned to saw, measure, shingle, install and cut plywood, install siding, install windows and doors.

This project helped the church because they recently put up a new church building and need another building. The garage is a double use building. It is a garage and it will be used to hold Sunday School Classes. The garage gave them the much needed space. By the Building Trades Class making the garage the church saved a lot of money. If they had hired a contractor it would have cost a lot in labor. I learned a lot from this project. I learned that even if it doesn't always go as planned, you keep trying and you can make something out of nothing. I really learned a lot about helping out people.

Building this garage helped me to choose my college major and the college I want to attend. I applied to SUNY Canton in November 2007, and I was accepted in the Construction Technology Management major. I discovered during building the garage that I love working with my hands. For some reason it really comes easy to me. Measuring, cutting, building and hammering relax me and feel real comfortable. I take great pride in my work and I love the thought of having a job that is hands on. In a day of

computers doing most of the work for people, I take great pride in working at a job that takes brains, grit and old fashioned sweat. This is definitely the career path that I am going to follow. I want to enjoy my job and make a career out of it and Building Trades is the career path for me.

I would appreciate this scholarship because it can help make my dreams come true. One day I plan on owning my own contracting business. I know that going to college and getting a good education in the construction field will be my first step to my dreams coming true. I am going to be the first person in my family to go to college. This is big because my family lives from week to week. Both of my parents work very hard, but neither have gone to college and don't make a lot of money. My going to college will open up doors and opportunities that my parents never had. Hopefully you will consider me for this scholarship and help make my dreams of owning my own business some day come true.