

10 new reasons ▶ TO LOVE BEING HOME



1



2



3

After working all day or carpooling the kids, who has time to stay on top of every little detail to make sure your home is the haven it's meant to be? Luckily, the number of stores and businesses dedicated to making life easier is growing faster than your to-do list! The next time you're feeling frazzled, reach for this list and dial up a service that'll put more of the "sweet" back into "home."

1. Helping Hands. You know that trustworthy, meticulous, hyper-productive twin you've always wished for to write your thank-you notes, wait in line at the DMV, and pick up your dry cleaning? Well, consider your wish granted via Anne McGovern and Ginny Hanley of **All Around Town Concierge & Errand Service**. The two moms, both with backgrounds in event planning, started the business last fall. Most services are \$25 an hour, but when the fridge is empty and the baby's crying, that's a small price to pay for your sanity (323-8851; allaroundtown.org).

2. Culinary Masterpieces.

As kitchens replace living rooms as many homes' cozy focal point, displaying artwork there (besides the kids' drawings) doesn't seem like such a crazy idea. At least that's what Mike Nazer, owner of **Rockland Kitchens** in the Garnerville Arts & Industrial Center, discovered two years ago when he held a contest called **Art Meets Industry** and challenged local artists to create original works on functional cabinet doors. The idea took off and now those works are for sale. Starting at around \$350, customers can select from existing designs or commission a project of their choice (55 W. Railroad Ave.; Garnerville; 429-6700; rocklandkitchens.com).

3. Personalized Pet Care.

Fido doesn't have to bark the blues anymore when you're in absentia. Besides walking dogs, Sharon Needelman of New City will take your pet to the groomer, house sit if you're away—even take your furry friends into her own home when you're on vacation (provided your pets get along with hers!). Needelman started **The Barking Lot** last spring after looking for a more personal pet-sitting alternative to kennels. "When people are away from home, I want them to feel their pets are really being cared for," she says (914-548-9098; barkinglotpets.com).

4. Yard Greetings. Want to send a birthday, anniversary, or any other greeting