Responsiveness is a cardinal process in close relationships. Responsiveness refers to the processes by which relationship partners attend to and respond supportively to each other's needs, wishes, and concerns, thereby promoting each other's welfare. By now the evidence is incontrovertible that responsive partners provide many personal and relational advantages, whereas unresponsive partners contribute to personal and relational distress, and poor health. I will describe a theoretical model of responsiveness that builds on the idea that partners' responses to each others' self-expressions, and their perceptions of those responses, is a conceptually integrated way to think about affective interdependence in close relationships. I will discuss this theme, illustrating it with evidence from three research programs on (1) the role of perceived partner responsiveness in self-regulation; (2) how partners help individuals build on personal positive events; and (3) the role of partners in promoting movement toward personal goals. In each case, the role of actual and perceived partner responsiveness will be considered, and the role of each in promoting relationship well-being will be discussed.