

Fall 2022

VOL. 11: ISSUE 2



# SAWS & Connections

NEWS FROM SERVANTS AT WORK ► [SAWSRAMPS.ORG](http://SAWSRAMPS.ORG)

## IMPORTANT UPDATES

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## NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW ERA

A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

SAWS is currently on track to build 400+ ramps this year. With 315 ramps completed as of last week, there are still 260 opportunities for future ramps. We need your help as every completed ramp generates another new client and the need for additional funding!

As we approach year end, I want to make you aware of SAWS matching dollar campaign called "Giving is Living." Every dollar that is donated has the potential to be matched if received before December 31st, 2022. Your gift can be doubled! A \$100 gift will become \$200, a \$500 gift will become \$1,000. Would you consider a gift that will enable us to reach more clients? Find inserted a SAWS remittance envelope for your convenience.

Thank you and God Bless,

Mike Thompson



## 50 CLIENTS SERVED IN 50 DAYS

### BraunAbility and SAWs Partner to Build Accessibility

The majority of the 50 ramps have been built in the Indiana communities where BraunAbility employees live and work, but thanks to SAWs' operations team, affiliates, and BraunAbility's retail network, the partnership was also able to successfully build ramps for clients in Illinois, Arizona, Michigan, and Seattle, Washington.

This challenge was the first of its kind for SAWs. Each ramp requires careful preparation, to include site surveying, technical sketches, and pre-cutting of wood planks before it can be installed on site.

"One of the most incredible things about this challenge is witnessing the awesome BraunAbility people and their affiliates stepping up and out of their comfort zone to learn how to build these ramps. We had teams in Indiana, Illinois,



Michigan, Kansas City, Seattle, Phoenix, and St. Louis" stated Tim Thurston. "These 50 clients are so appreciative to regain their freedom."

*"Creating partnerships that build ramps" - Mike Thompson*

## FFA DAY OF SERVICE

During the 2022 National FFA Organization convention in October, Servants at Work participated in the FFA Days of Service, and hosted 40 state leaders for a day of ramp building.

The FFA state leaders from across the US gathered at SAWs headquarters in Indianapolis for presentations and demonstrations from our staff and volunteers.

Our friends from the FFA learned about the need and importance of accessibility, the unique design of SAWs ramps, and how our nonprofit is able to bring freedom to our neighbors. In just a few hours, they were able to measure, cut, assemble and test a new ADA-compliant ramp for our clients, Floyd and Nancy in Johnson County.



# WORKING TOGETHER

## Partnerships That Make An Impact

SAWs maintains relationships with community members statewide that allow us to transform people's lives. Eugene, an 80-year-old Navy Vet who lives alone in Mooresville, was referred to SAWs by Grace-At-Home.

On a steamy July morning, Westlake Church Of God said a prayer, and in 5 hours, built Eugene's ramp. SAWs called Eugene several weeks after he received the ramp to ask how it was working. He told us, "I'm very pleased with the ramp. It allows me to go outside now and enjoy the sun. It's fantastic. I could not do that with a ramp. I no longer fear falling."

It is through these partners – statewide – that SAWs fulfills its mission to provide freedom one ramp at a time.



# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

## David Kennedy's Legacy Lives On With New Award

On August 28th, the first annual David C. Kennedy award for the Outstanding Volunteer Group was awarded to the Westlake Church of God for 2021 during the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Not completely out of the pandemic, the "Westlakers" managed to build multiple ramps with and without help. Now a well-established, self-sufficient team, they have built on the west side of Indianapolis, but also helped with the backlog of projects in Morgan County.

David Kennedy was a dedicated SAWs Board member and spent the better part of four years seeking groups to partner with SAWs and building relationships with them. The award was established this year in honor of David Kennedy who passed away after a long battle with illness.

## Mil Robinson Shares Words of Inspiration

Mil Robinson, 75, spoke at the SAWs volunteer appreciation event with a heartfelt and inspiring reflection of what his ramp has meant to him and his loved ones. Due to a string of health issues in November of 2019, an amputation created an immediate need for assistance. Thanks to a team of SAWs volunteers, a new ramp was installed the very next month.

His ramp has afforded Mil the ability to do what most of us take for granted: the adventures of retrieving the mail, trips to the garage or yard, and other such activities, without the help of a caregiver. Mil can now reconnect with neighbors, friends, and family, and see new possibilities for the future. His message was based on three key words: Blessed by the SAWs volunteers who provided the ramp, honored to have the opportunity to thank them on behalf of all clients, and the gift of freedom for himself, his caregivers and family to live a much richer life.

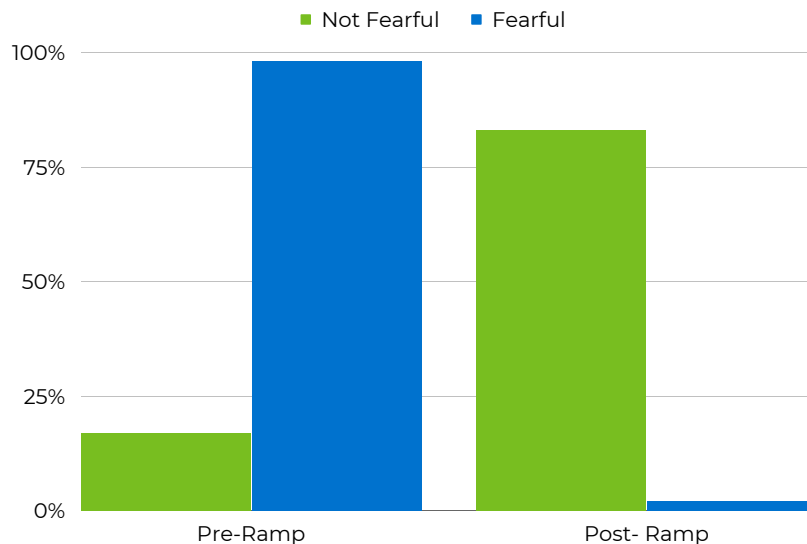


# YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Clients interviewed after receiving a ramp and are asked "How fearful are you of exiting your home in the event of an emergency?" The impact of a SAWs ramp has a profound effect on our clients' quality of life and personal safety.

We rely on your generous support to continue our mission to build freedom, independence and accessibility for our neighbors. You, the SAWs community, create life-changing impact, one ramp at a time.

"How fearful are you of exiting your home in the event of an emergency?"



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