

SAWS Connections

NEWS FROM SERVANTS AT WORK ► SAWSRAMPS.ORG

From the Executive Director



Every week I have the pleasure of meeting our volunteers, those dedicated persons who give their time to help us cut boards, pack trailers, build ramps, stuff envelopes and so much more. Some of you come as you are able, others

volunteer nearly every week and still others of you make it an annual event to join us on a build. Every one of you is important to us.

I want you to know that we are grateful for your time, for your willingness to share your skills and your resources with SAWS. Without your dedication, we simply would not be in the position we are in today, building hundreds of ramps across the state of Indiana every year to help people who are not in a position to help themselves. It's amazing how much dignity and freedom a simple ramp can provide.

"We don't have a lot, but it is still important to give back and I want my daughter to learn that."

TASHA, RAMP RECIPIENT'S DAUGHTER

I spend Saturday mornings traveling to as many of our build sites as I can, introducing myself to our volunteers and ramp recipients alike. Earlier this month, that task took me to a trailer park where I met the ramp recipient and her daughter and granddaughter who live in an adjacent trailer. The young woman's gratitude was palpable.

She introduced me to her teenage daughter and as she surveyed the trailer park, she told me, "We don't have a lot, but it is still important to give back and I want my daughter to learn that." Tasha intends to volunteer with her daughter with SAWS as a result, helping other people attain the freedom that her mom received with her new ramp.

With each of us prayerfully considering what we are able to give of our time, talent and treasure, we can surely continue to extend our reach as we have done every year since our inception. Thank you for being an essential part of the SAWS journey.

With a grateful heart,

Christina Starace, Executive Director



Have you considered making a planned gift to SAWS? Something as simple as a beneficiary designation on an IRA or life insurance policy can help ensure that SAWS is here to provide freedom to individuals for generations to come.

By informing us of your gift before the end of 2018, you will be forever celebrated as a SAWS Legacy Society founding member. **To learn more, please contact Christina Starace at cstarace@sawsramps.org or 317-844-7664 x6049**


Building Freedom
one ramp at a time

SawsRamps.org

Pre-Fab Offers Multiple Benefits



1 *Volunteers cut lumber on three saw lines during a prefab session.*

If you've helped build a ramp with SAWs, you know that the frames for the platforms and ramps have already been built and the lumber has already been cut before it gets to the site. What you might not know is that every Thursday morning the SAWs warehouse is abuzz with volunteers cutting the boards that will be used for decking, the "uey" floating foundation pieces and the frames. Once the boards are cut, the platform and ramp frames are assembled, then loaded onto trailers to be taken to their respective builds.



2 *Volunteers Bill Carr and Carol Wendt work together on the deck board saw.*

With prefabrication of these parts, the on-site building is much faster and simpler, allowing SAWs to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to people with all levels of experience. "Doing a stick build with new volunteers in the field could easily take all day, if not longer," says Rik Hagarty, Founder of SAWs. "In the beginning, it took us two weekends to construct a ramp. Now with the plans that we have developed and the prefabrication, we can complete the same build in less than four hours."

Another benefit of prefabrication is the savings we garner in materials usage. "When you build in the field there is a lot more waste. By doing it in the warehouse, our volunteers are able to minimize the waste of lumber material to the point that we have almost none," says Hagarty.



3 *Volunteers Greg Morrison, Hal Hefner and Pete Mohr construct a ramp frame.*

In addition, the prefab operation offers a sense of community. "A big part of it is fellowship and camaraderie," says John Yeo, SAWs volunteer. "You develop friendships working two to three hours a week together. We all like building things, helping people and being together."



4 *OrthoIndy volunteers construct a frame with the help of John Connell.*



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Servants at Work Affiliates in Action

KOSCIUSKO COUNTY

Thirty years ago, Vickey Frey was in a devastating car accident. As a result of a brain injury and a shattered foot, Vickey became permanently disabled. Fortunately, she is surrounded by family who make sure that Vickey's needs are met. One of her sisters, Tana, remembers getting a call from her nephew earlier this summer. Something was wrong with Vickey. She wasn't acting herself and her good foot (the one not injured in the car accident) was bruised and swollen.

At the hospital, the family learned that Vickey had developed a blood clot and sepsis. In order to stop the infection from spreading, a toe on her good foot was amputated. Vickey was transitioned to a nursing home, but she wanted to come home. "I missed my fiancé and my dogs. There's no place like home."

Tana saw that her sister was becoming very depressed. She knew that Vickey would not be able to come back home until they made her mobile home more accessible. At the top of the list of modifications that were needed was a wheelchair ramp.

Tana started doing online research to find out where she could get help with the installation of a wheelchair ramp. "I was referred to a few different places, but no one ever called me back," she said. Finally, she came across



Volunteer Ron Richey with Tana Waggoner and Vickey Frey

information for Servants at Work (SAWs). "They called me back right away."

Just a few months before, SAWs had secured a grant from the Kosciusko REMC Operation Round Up Fund for materials needed to build wheelchair ramps for people in need in Kosciusko County. The local coordinator, Ron Richey, oversaw a crew of six to build Vickey's ramp. Richey is retired from the construction business and feels good about using his skills to offer someone else a helping hand.

"Without them, my sister could not have come home," said Tana. "They were so helpful and compassionate. We are so grateful to Servants at Work and to the donors who made it possible for Vickey's wheelchair ramp to be built."

New items for Sale!

The new look of SAWs continues to spread awareness of who we are and what we do. We have new short-sleeved and long-sleeved t-shirts in adult sizes S-3XL available for \$10 and \$18 each, respectively. We also have new black stocking caps with the green SAWs logo on the front for \$15 each. Please email Emily Barrow at ebarrow@sawsramps.org to order.

COMING SOON: zip-up hoodies!



SAWs merchandise

Why I give...

ROB FRENCH, President
First Construction Consulting



You have built several ramps with us. Tell me about the most memorable one. The most special one was organized by our kids. My wife, Sandy, always emphasized the importance of serving others and giving when they were growing up. To show Mom that they got the message, they decided to honor her 60th birthday by building a ramp together as a family. We had a great time together. Sandy was thrilled with the gift and it was meaningful for us to honor her by doing something that is so close to her heart.

In addition to building with your family, you also build a ramp with your employees as a service project every year. What made you decide to involve your company with SAWs? Our core values of God, Other People and Integrity are the foundation for everything that we do. We have been blessed and we believe that we are called to share our gifts with others. We want to share God's love with everyone we meet and building a ramp for someone is one way we can do that. It's just a matter of living out our values and our employees look forward to it every year.

What do you find memorable about building with SAWs? Building ramps with SAWs makes you realize how much we take mobility for granted. In one case, the woman we were building for wasn't allowed to leave rehab until after a ramp was in place because there was no safe way for her to get in the house. She was able to come home the day after we built the ramp. Making that kind of difference in someone's life is something we won't forget.

What do you want people to know about building a ramp? Building a ramp is something impactful that you can do with just a small time commitment. It's a tangible project that changes someone's life at the end of four hours of work. And it impacts the volunteers as well as the person who receives the ramp and their family. You can't help but be moved by this experience.



French family ramp build

New SAWs Kroger Rewards Number: **EP501**

Support SAWs While You Shop

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS:

Every quarter SAWs receives a percentage of the purchases made by SAWs supporters through Kroger Community Rewards. To enroll or update your account, go to www.kroger.com and choose Kroger Community Rewards at the bottom of the page. Click on "I'm a Customer" and search for **Servants at Work** or **EP501**.

Each participant must update their account every year, so please take a moment to update yours today. If you need help, please email cecommunityrewards@kroger.com or call 317-579-8324 or 317-579-8321.



AMAZON SMILE:

Make your amazon purchases at smile.amazon.com and .5% of your purchase price will go to SAWs when you register SAWs as the charity of your choice.



SAWs Receives First AED

Three years to the day Linda Goff lost her husband, SAWs received a new AED through the charity that she established in his name. Brian Goff loved playing softball, but when he suddenly collapsed on the softball field, there were no medical devices nearby to save him. After founding Brian's Heart in honor of her late husband, Linda is giving back by making sure that AEDs are more widely available. She wants to make sure that other families don't have to suffer the same loss that she and her children experienced three years ago.



Volunteer John Yeo worked with Linda Carr to secure an AED for SAWs.

"I didn't want it to be a sad story," Goff said. "I told the kids that this would change us, and that it was up to us to decide whether it was going to change us for the better or for the worse. We had to make the decision to be better in spite of it."

In addition to the gift of an AED, Goff is leading several training sessions for SAWs staff and volunteers on CPR and AED use. "We can put AEDs everywhere, but if people aren't comfortable enough to use them, it's not going to do any good," Goff said. "I don't think people realize how easy they are to use. It's important to make them commonplace because you never know what's going to happen or where."

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Countdown to Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is almost here! Six years ago, the #GivingTuesday movement began as a way to celebrate and encourage giving on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving.

This November, SAWs celebrates 15 years of building ramps for Hoosiers in need. Our goal for #GivingTuesday is to raise \$15,000 to celebrate our 15 years. Will you help us build 15 ramps in honor of our 15th anniversary? #GiveFreedom.

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and share our Giving Tuesday posts with friends to help us reach our goal. Thank you in advance!



#GIVINGTUESDAY

Our PARTNERS

SAWs expresses its deep gratitude to these organizations upon which so much of our work depends.



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