

Building Freedom One Ramp at a Time

Vol. 3 Issue 2



News & Notes

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to SAWS. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-3825509> and support us every time you shop.

SAWs would like to thank the Loctite Corporation for the donation of 2 portable displays. And also thanks to Terry and Sally Corman of Firehouse Imaging for installing new graphics on them. These displays will help present our mission and its value in a more impactful way. We are very grateful!

Public Service Endeavors

by Norm Wilkens

This is the first in a series of stories of articles about members of the SAWS Board of Directors.

For most of my adult life, I have had an interest and enthusiasm for public service endeavors. This dedication has led to many wonderful associations. In the majority of cases, I have tried to apply my skills to the needs of the organizations, but find that I have come away from public service with more personal rewards than my given effort. My latest endeavor as a Board Member on SAWS (Servants At Work, Inc.) is a good case in point.

SAWs was formed by Rik Hagarty, Deacon and Elder of Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, in 2003. He felt the need and desire to help those persons who were confined to their homes because of a lack of ability to successfully transverse to and from the residence. In his words, "They were held prisoner in their own homes." His solution was to create an organization that would be charged with the responsibility building ramps to open the "prison doors."

The need, as Rik and others saw it, was accelerating as life has been extended through medical advances. The aging process was leaving even more persons with mobility challenges than ever before. This has been complicated by veterans returning from war zones with significant physical injuries. By 2030, it is estimated that the number of people aged sixty-five and older with some form of disability could rise to 69.4 million from 34.7 million in 2000.

To meet the increasing demand, SAWS began with seven volunteers willing to plan,

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SAWs® (Servants At Work, Inc.) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), volunteer ministry established in 2003 that builds wheelchair ramps to provide the elderly and persons with disabilities access to their world, allowing them to remain in their homes.

“It won’t be too long before SAWs should be in evidence from coast to coast.”

promote and build ramps. Today, the present number of five hundred persons across the State of Indiana involved in SAWs is only the beginning of the growth picture presented by this dedicated organization.

In 2006, disability-associated health care expenditures were 26.7% for adults residing in the United States and totaled \$397.8 billion. According to the 2010 Census, 3.3 million people fifteen and older use a wheelchair. Another ten million use a walking aid, such as a cane, crutches or walker. It is also estimated that about half of wheelchair users must use steps to enter or exit their homes. Given these statistics, it is easy to understand the needs that SAWs understood at its beginning and continues to address on a daily basis.

Because of the construction efficiencies achieved during the past thirteen years,

it only takes a few hours for the men and women building the ramps across the state to plan and execute the process of “building freedom” for those confined to their homes. From 2003 through 2015, 800 ramps were built utilizing twenty-eight volunteer construction groups from across the State. And, as the saying goes, “You haven’t seen anything yet.” The growth potential will continue as the needs increase in the coming years. Keep in mind, there are seventy-eight million “Baby Boomers” who are turning sixty-five at the rate of ten thousand per day. That statistic alone will have a marked affect on the building of future ramps.

Speaking of the future, SAWs is now exploring ways of growing its potential on a national level. The local group has been approached to expand its services in

the Midwest as well as in numerous states across the nation. The foresight and monies necessary to make those moves are numerous. However, using the determination and skill exhibited in Indiana, it won’t be too long before SAWs should be in evidence from coast to coast.

For more information, contact SAWs at 8811 North Robbins Road, Indianapolis, IN 46268-1024 (317)844-7664 or www.SAWsRamps.org.



A nationally recognized speaker and writer, Norman Wilkens has traveled to forty-seven of the fifty states speaking on topics of marketing, advertising and public relations. Norm is also a board member of SAWs.

Article courtesy of Safe Money Places™ magazine

SAWs 2K – The K is for KROGER

Since SAWs has been listed as charitable organization in Kroger’s Community Rewards program, SAWs has received nearly \$2,000 as a result of our friends patronizing their stores. Kroger is committed to helping communities grow and prosper. Each year, it assists hundreds of local nonprofit organizations, schools and churches working to make the communities they serve better places to live and work. Kroger is committed to building relationships with organizations that enrich the lives of others with a focus on hunger relief, education, diversity, and health and wellness.

Community Rewards is a nationwide program that lets loyalty cardholders select charities to which Kroger will donate, based on dollars they spend in stores. At the end of each quarter, Kroger totals up dollars spent by enrolled customers and distributes money to nonprofits proportionately. Kroger limits a participating organization’s earned rewards to a maximum of \$50,000 quarterly.

Shoppers don’t sacrifice any in-store discounts or gas points they earn on their Kroger card; the charitable component is a separate, extra feature.

Kroger and its system of stores (King Soopers, Fred Meyer, Ralph’s, QSC, Food 4 Less, Food Co., Fry’s, Smith’s, Dillon’s JC

Food Stores, Rulers Foods, PomThumb, Quik Stop, Kwik Shop, Loaf ‘N Jug and Turkey Hill) is now donating 1% of purchases by customers who have registered their Kroger Plus card to SAWs. To register your card, go online to krogercommunityrewards.com and click on the “Create an Account” tab. After confirming your information, enter NPO (76257) or SAWs and select SAWs from

the list. If you do not have internet access or use your phone number as your Alternate ID when checking out instead of your card, call 800-576-4377 and select option 3 to register your Kroger Plus card. Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the Alternate ID related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping. REMEMBER, purchases will not

count for SAWs until you have registered your card.

Question: Does everything in my shopping cart count towards my donation to my organization?

Answer: Supporters can earn rewards on almost everything, every time they shop! However, there are specific purchases that cannot be included: alcohol, tobacco, government-assisted pharmacy expenses, postage stamps, Kroger gift cards and Green Dot Prepaid Cards, gift certificates, bottle deposits, lottery and promotional tickets, fuel, fuel center purchases, office services and Sales



Tax. Eligible pharmacy purchases include out-of-pocket co-pays for non-government-assisted pharmacy programs.

Question: How do I know my Kroger Plus Card is registered?

Answer: Within 7-10 business days of successfully registering your Kroger Plus Card, you will see at the bottom of your Kroger receipt "At your request, Kroger is donating to 'your organization name'."

Question: Why do I have to re-register next year if I'm already participating prior

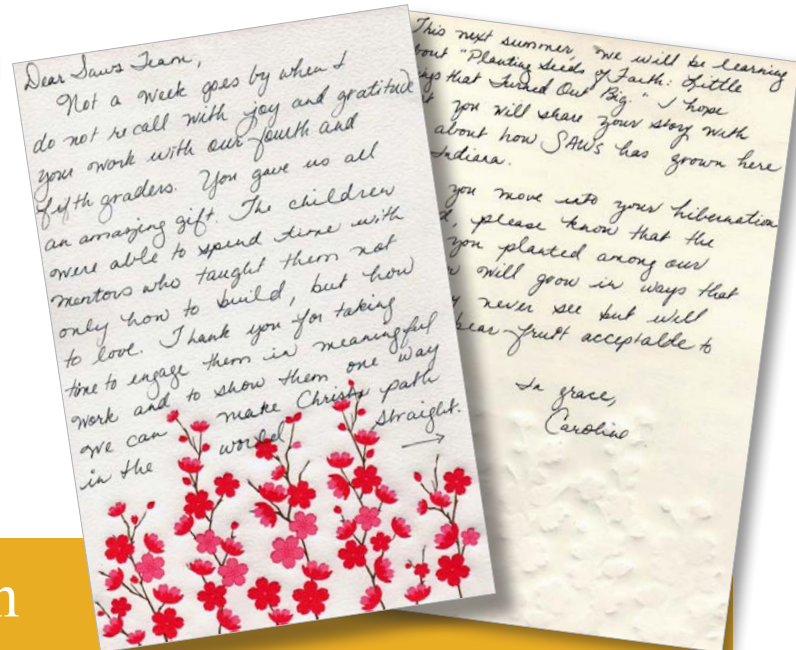
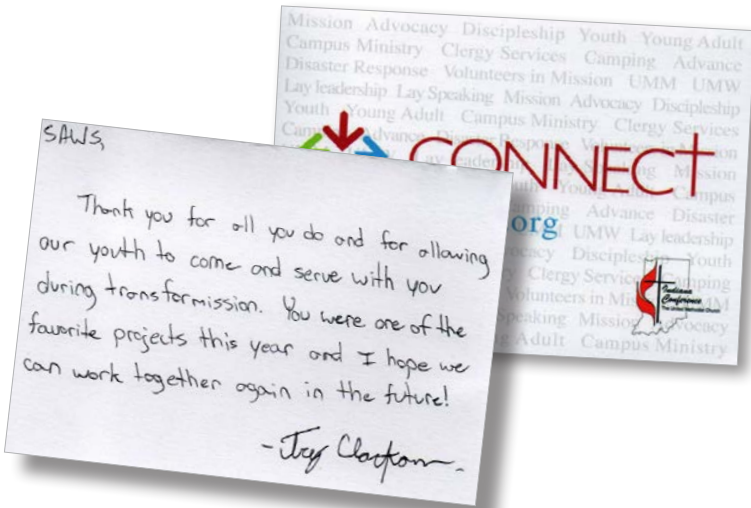
to May 2010?

Answer: The Kroger Community Rewards Program will be evaluated every year and changes will be considered based on the success of the program. By making a one-year commitment to Kroger, Kroger is also making a one-year commitment to you and your favorite community organization. It also gives each organization an opportunity to refresh its membership by spreading the word to new members and keeping the previous members informed

about any changes to the program. The annual re-enrollment will also help your favorite organization and Kroger maintain an updated list of group members' current address information, etc.

If you shop at any of these stores, please sign up to donate your Kroger Community Rewards to SAWS. Just go online at www.krogercommunityrewards.com and follow the member enrollment steps. And then keep shopping!

Sources: Kroger Community Rewards, USA Today



Letter from the Chairman



A year ago last March, SAWS Indy received a stunning grant from the OrthoIndy and OrthoIndy Hospital Foundation Fund that provided us with a new location. Our new facility has allowed us to increase our efficiency and our ability to build more ramps in less time. But as important, it has opened the door to new partnerships with other nonprofit organizations whose mission align with ours. These organizations, like The Fuller Center for Housing, focus on providing safe housing, community development and job or skills training for those they serve, particularly at-risk youth.

Recently, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity volunteers have begun working with our experienced Project Managers to become Project Managers themselves. Once trained, SAWS will become an element of their Kappa Cares program, which works with at-risk kids giving them hope and the skills to succeed. We hope success here locally will lead to this partnership expanding far beyond the borders of Indiana. We are in discussion with other nonprofits that want to see how SAWS can augment their programs.

I don't believe these new relationships would have been possible without the trust the OrthoIndy and OrthoIndy Hospital Founda-

tion Fund has shown us with their very generous grant. Thank you to all members of the foundation for your belief in our mission and ability meet the needs of so many more needing ramps or a better start at life.



Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tom Lipinski
 Chairman of the Board of Directors
 Corporate Fund Raiser
 Individual Contributor
 Project Manager
 Volunteer





Not All Prisons Have Bars...

...Some Just Have Steps

According to the 2010 US Census, 3.3 million people 15 and older use a wheelchair. Another 10 million use a walking aid, such as a cane, crutches or walker. The 2013 American Community Survey data lists 14.3 million people between the ages of 5 to 75 with disabilities are below the poverty line.

SAWs has built over 1,000 ramps across Indiana but we haven't even scratched the surface in terms of the need that is still out there.

Help us free those trapped in the prisons of their own homes. Volunteer opportunities go well beyond building ramps. The work is easy and so rewarding. People in need are waiting for you. Join us.

Contact us at our website
www.SawsRamps.org
to volunteer or to donate.