

Spring 2019

VOL 6 : Issue 2

SAWs Connections

NEWS FROM SERVANTS AT WORK ► SAWSRAMPS.ORG

From the Executive Director



As the 2019 build season gains momentum, I am reminded once again of the blessing of meaningful work, of putting my efforts toward something that will change someone's life for the better not just for a day, but for the foreseeable future. I think all of us at SAWs, both volunteers and staff,

feel that way about our work. We are truly blessed to wake up every morning thinking about how we can serve more people who are waiting for their freedom.

Our volunteers put forth countless hours to design and build ramps, interview clients, conduct site surveys and perform office tasks to help us serve as many clients as possible. For some, the payoff is in learning that the client asked for you by name on the build site because of the impression you left with her on the site visit or over the phone. For others, the payoff is in seeing a veteran come down his new ramp for the first time with tears in his eyes. And yet for others the payoff lies in freeing a woman who has not left her house in three years. Each of these examples happened in the past couple of weeks. Imagine how many more lives have been impacted by our efforts.

Many more are waiting for their freedom. We are working hard to serve them sooner rather than later and we need you to help. The more volunteers we have on Saturday mornings to build ramps and the more Project Managers we have to lead these builds, the faster we can provide freedom to people who have been waiting too long, often years, to even cross the threshold of their front door.

We need your passion. We need your energy. We need your willing hands and hearts to make a difference for people in your community whose best hope for independence and dignity is you. Register to volunteer with us at www.sawsramps.org to receive weekly emails that provide you with the opportunity to sign up for a build the following week. We welcome all skill levels and we will train you on site. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how you might use your gifts to help free more people from the indignity of being trapped in their home.

With gratitude,

Christina Starace, Executive Director

SAWs &
Legacy Society

PLANNED GIVING: Leave a Legacy of Empowerment

Because of generous, forward-thinking friends like you, SAWs will continue to change lives well into the future. Your personal legacy will help transform the lives of people who are unable to leave their home due to their financial and physical limitations.

To talk with us about creating a future gift that will help you fulfill your charitable goals or to notify us of your charitable bequest or beneficiary designation, please contact: **Christina Starace, Executive Director**, at cstarace@sawsramps.org.

Building Freedom
one ramp at a time

SawsRamps.org

GRAND OPENING *Celebration!*

SAWs annual cookout has traditionally occurred on the first Sunday in May. This year, the first Sunday in May just happened to be Cinco de Mayo and spicing up the theme with some Mexican food seemed like the natural way to celebrate. To complete the meal, SAWs offered dark chocolate and red pepper flaked "Aztec cups" from Schakolad for those who couldn't make up their mind between spicy and sweet.

Most importantly, SAWs was proud to welcome our volunteers, donors and agency partners to our new office and warehouse facility. We heard from our Board Chairman Carol Smith, our Executive Director Christina Starace and our Founder Rik Hagarty. Several of our Project Managers were in attendance and some of our guests drove in from as far away as South Bend, Bloomington, Danville and Greencastle to celebrate with us. Thank you for joining in the celebration!



Volunteers and donors enjoy a Mexican lunch.



Win Smith, Christina Starace, Emily Barrow, Byron Chaplin and Carol Smith pause to smile for the camera.



Volunteers socialize during our Cinco de Mayo themed Grand Opening.

Major Gift Donors Enjoy Preview Party



Donors Bob and Ana Sweet and Bob and Marti Browne enjoy a tour of the office space with Founder Rik Hagarty.

On April 24, SAWs hosted its first Donor Preview Party to give those who provide the financial means for us to accomplish our mission the opportunity to have a sneak peak at our new office and warehouse. Guests enjoyed champagne and chocolate truffles as they were led on a tour of the new office, lingered for conversation and hors d'oeuvres in the warehouse and left with a chocolate bar featuring an edible SAWs logo.



Preview Party guests received a chocolate bar with an edible SAWs logo.



Donors enjoyed food, champagne and conversation during their preview of the newly renovated space.

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Servants at Work Affiliates in Action

VANDERBURGH COUNTY



The Evansville crew smiles after completing their first ramp.

Evansville is the third largest city in Indiana by population. More than 23% of its citizens live at or below the poverty line and 7.8% of the 118,000 residents of Evansville or 9,204 people face ambulatory challenges.

John Whitmore, Area Coordinator for Vanderburgh County, has

led the effort of building a coalition of United Churches of Christ to build SAWs ramps in the area and steadily reduce the need. They have done a lot of organizing in a short amount of time and have recently secured a permanent facility to prefabricate ramps and store their tools.

Their first ramp was build for Ray, an 85 year old veteran. His wife, Nancy, is 74 and is Ray's primary caregiver. They have been married for 54 years. Due to her own health issues, Nancy understandably has difficulty in transporting Ray to and from the car.

Ray suffers from poor health. He has been on a walker for many years and late last year became dependent on a wheelchair. The SAWs ramp installed this spring has been a blessing for both Ray and Nancy. He can now travel to his many healthcare appointments without being bumped up and down the stairs and it is much easier for Nancy to get him in

and out of the house. But Ray's favorite thing about the ramp just might be the long 12-foot platform which allows him to once again sit in his front yard enjoying the warm sun and watching his American flag fly.



Prefabricating ramp parts on a rainy day highlights the importance of securing an indoor facility.



Volunteers work on pre-fabrication of platform and ramp frames.

Items for Sale!

Our new look continues to spread awareness of who we are and what we do. Do you have a new SAWs t-shirt? We have short-sleeved and long-sleeved t-shirts in adult sizes S-3XL available for \$10 and \$18 respectively. **Please email Emily Barrow at ebarrow@sawsramps.org to order.**



SAWs merchandise

Why I give...

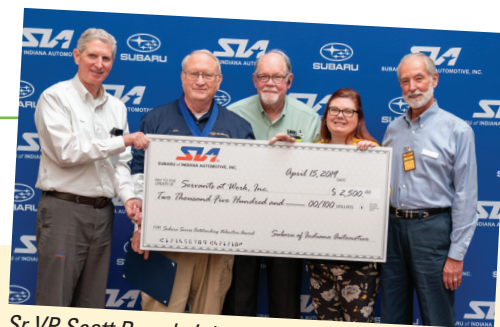
JOHN HUNTER, SAWs Volunteer



John Hunter has been an indispensable volunteer with SAWs for well over a decade. He juggles a full-time job with Subaru of Indiana in Lafayette while overseeing ramp builds for six counties in Indiana. Just recently, John was recognized by Subaru of Indiana at the Subaru Service Outstanding Volunteer Awards. He received their highest recognition, the Legacy Award, which came with a \$2,500 check for SAWs and the opportunity to travel to Washington DC in June for the National Jefferson Awards.

John was initially drawn to volunteer work when he traveled to Mississippi three times in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina to help rebuild homes. Upon completing that work, he sought a similar opportunity close to home and found that in SAWs. In the ten plus years he has been volunteering with SAWs, he has built over 200 ramps. When asked why he gives financially to SAWs, John said simply, "I give to help people who need help. That's what it's all about."

To those who would like to help build ramps but are not confident in their skills, he says, "Just get out there and try. You will find it is not that difficult to do." Our Community Outreach Coordinator, Emily Barrow, recently



Sr VP Scott Brand, John Hunter, Rik Hagarty, Emily Barrow and David Kennedy

built her first SAWs ramp with John at the helm and said of the experience, "John will teach you everything you need to know. He is great at encouraging you and making you feel like you are accomplishing something. The positive teamwork on the build site comes from John's expert leadership."

Hunter has made ramp building a family affair by including his daughter, grandchildren and brother in the builds. What was born out of a need for volunteers has grown into a family bonding experience. "It is just fun seeing my whole family out there, listening to my brother tease my daughter and just laughing together."

Hunter added, **"When someone who has been trapped inside comes out and goes down the ramp for the first time, that is the payoff for all the hard work. Looking over and seeing a tear in your grandkid's eye makes it even better."**



John Hunter with grandchildren Jack and Leota at the SAWs Grand Opening.

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.

amazonsmile

Board News

SAWs is pleased to announce the addition of the following new members to our Board of Directors:



Rob French is a civil engineer and President of First Construction Consulting. He has been involved with SAWs as a volunteer and a donor for

several years and brings construction expertise to the board.



Toni Richins is the CEO of ConsortHR and brings a wealth of human resources knowledge as well as a passion for servant leadership to SAWs.



Carl Potenza is an executive coach with a background in human resources. He is passionate about recruiting more companies across the state to participate in

team building opportunities with SAWs.

New Officers:



Carol Smith will serve as the Chairman of the Board.



Eric Burton-Krieger will serve as Vice Chairman.



Bob Richmond will serve as Treasurer.



David Bodle will serve as Secretary.

Staff News



Emily Barrow has been promoted to the position of Community Outreach Coordinator. In this role, Emily has assumed leadership in the areas of volunteer management and recruitment as well as working with referring agencies and continuing to publish SAWs social media posts. Congratulations, Emily!

OPEN POSITION: SAWs is seeking a fulltime Administrative Assistant. **Please contact Christina Starace at cstarace@sawsramps.org** if interested.



SAVE THE DATE! Fathers Day Weekend

Build some lasting memories with Dad by building a ramp together this Fathers Day weekend. What better way to spend some quality time than working outside together to change someone's life for the better? Consider sponsoring a ramp as a family project or sign up individually on our volunteer page.



Our PARTNERS

Spring 2019 Newsletter Donor Recognition

ORTHOINDY
FOUNDATION

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SENIOR FUND**
A CICC FUND


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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
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FOUNDATION**
Looking forward. Giving back.


**Cass County
Community
Foundation**


Samerian
FOUNDATION, INC.


**Urology
of Indiana**
FOUNDATION


Hf
HADDAD
FOUNDATION

HeritageFund
The Community Foundation of Bartholomew County


JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
INDIANAPOLIS


**MADISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

SAW's
SERVANTS AT WORK, INC.

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