

# SAWs Connections

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## From the Executive Director



### Dear Friends,

What an incredible first year it has been! As I reflect on all that we have accomplished together since I began my role at SAWs in June of 2018, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and appreciation for all

of the individuals who make this a successful operation. We are blessed with passionate volunteers and a dedicated staff, all of whom are committed to providing freedom to those most in need.

In the past year we have rebranded with new colors and a new logo, moved to a new location and launched a new website. We have updated our criteria for accepting clients and have begun training referring agencies to use our new criteria and website when they refer a client to us.

We have welcomed new churches and companies to build with us and have added three new project managers to lead our ramp builds. Our new Community Outreach Coordinator has been busy reaching out to a broad array of potential new volunteers and additional agencies to explore partnerships. At SAWs there is never a shortage of things to do!

If you have thought about volunteering with SAWs, but aren't sure where you would fit in, give us a shout. We have opportunities that include talking on the phone with clients, driving to a potential site to take measurements, taking photos and even baking goodies for an end-of-ramp celebration of freedom. If you are interested in serving, we can help you find your place with SAWs.

With gratitude,

**Christina Starace, Executive Director**

## Building Sustainability through RECURRING GIFTS

As donors, we all want to make sure that our gifts have as much impact as possible. One way to make a big impact on our mission while minimizing the impact to your budget is to make your gifts recurring on a monthly basis. This is easy to do through online giving by checking the appropriate box.



Giving a recurring donation works well for the donor and the organization. You spend less time writing and mailing checks during the year and SAWs receives a steady flow of cash to fuel our mission. Consider making your gift a recurring donation today!

# SAWs + Habitat for Humanity = A Winning Combination



SAWs shares a special relationship with Habitat for Humanity throughout Indiana and especially in Indianapolis. Both organizations invest in low-income individuals and families to improve their quality of life. Sometimes our missions join as a recipient for a Habitat house is also in need of a ramp. This was the case

recently for two new Habitat homes near the Children's Museum in Indianapolis.

The synergy between the two organizations occurs through the sharing of leadership volunteers. SAWs Project Manager Pete Mohr has been a key link as his recruiting has brought a number of Habitat Tigers (serial volunteers) to SAWs over the years. In one of his recent ramp builds, all 5 of the SAWs team were also Habitat Tigers. In these joint projects, SAWs provides the ramp designs and ground-contact treated wood while Habitat provides funding and volunteers.



*The end result of volunteer labor on a SAWs/Habitat collaboration will improve visitability for this homeowner.*

The grants for the joint project ramps are from IHCD in partnership with the Habitat State Service Organization (SSO) to support the concept of Visitability, enabling mobility-impaired persons

to visit persons in their homes without

undue obstacles. A "Visitable" residence is designed to be accessible to people who use wheelchairs, walkers, or have difficulty with steps. Home design must include a "No-Step Entrance" which must be visitable from the driveway or public way via a Visitable Path. "No Step" means no greater than a one-half inch (½") elevation change unless access is provided using a code-compliant ramp under the Indiana Building Code.

SAWs is grateful for the partnership we continue to enjoy with Habitat and look forward to many more joint projects in the future.

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*The team pauses to smile with SAWs project manager Pete Mohr (far left).*

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## Servants at Work Happenings in the Hubs

### TERRE HAUTE



Volunteers in Terre Haute replace an unsafe metal ramp with an ADA-compliant SAWs ramp.

The partnership between SAWs and the WILL Center (Wabash Independent Living and Learning Center) began seven years ago when SAWs received a call from a young paraplegic woman in Terre Haute. After reaching out to several other agencies with disappointing results, SAWs Founder Rik Hagarty discovered a willing partner in the WILL Center. As a result, this young woman became the first of many ramp recipients in the area and an ongoing collaboration was born. To date, the WILL Center has

built more than 180 ramps, making the Vigo County area the second most productive area in Indiana.

When SAWs developed a Hub and Spoke model for expansion across the state in 2018, Hagarty approached the WILL Center as the natural partner to lead the effort in the Terre Haute area. As the Hub, they provide a prefabrication area for not only their own county (Vigo), but also the surrounding counties of Clay, Parke, Putnam, Owen and Vermillion. They perform all of the steps in the SAWs ramp-building process with minimal assistance from SAWs, Inc.

Recently, the WILL Center established a partnership with the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility in Carlisle, IN in which the WILL Center designs the ramps and the correctional



Volunteers from The Bridge Church in Terre Haute built this ramp for Joshua after a gunshot took away his ability to walk.

facility receives the lumber and pre-fabricates ramp “kits.” Businesses like Duke Energy and Vectren, several churches and organizations such as Rose Hulman Institute, Indiana State University, the Carpenter’s Union and United Way all support their efforts.

“Nothing is more fundamental to independent, community-based living than being able to get into and out of one’s own home,” said Peter Ciancone, Executive Director of The WILL Center. “SAWs facilitated our effort to free our consumers from those confines. They are partners who approach the need as we do – to make a difference one life at a time, but the effect is much broader. Together, we’re working to build stronger, more inclusive communities.”

***“Nothing is more fundamental to independent, community-based living than being able to get into and out of one’s own home,”*** —Peter Ciancone, Executive Director of The WILL Center.

## 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](mailto:ebarrow@sawsramps.org) to order.**



SAWs merchandise



## Why we give... ORTHOINDY FOUNDATION

## ORTHOINDY FOUNDATION



*OrthoIndy employees pre-fabricate a ramp frame at SAWs.*

When OrthoIndy first heard about SAWs in 2011, they were in the process of developing their own philanthropic concepts. The OrthoIndy Foundation was established at a time when SAWs was outgrowing its location in a two-bay garage at Second Presbyterian Church. "We recognized in SAWs the

capacity for growth and decided to give SAWs a push to help it grow into something bigger and broader," said Dr. John Dietz of OrthoIndy. That push came in the form of a free warehouse and office space that helped launch SAWs into a sustainable organization.

In SAWs, OrthoIndy Foundation found a great opportunity to financially support a mission that is meaningful to them while also providing opportunities for employees to give back to the community. "The SAWs mission statement is terrific and it aligns with our mission," said Dietz. "The evolution of the relationship with SAWs coincided with the growth of the OrthoIndy Foundation," he added as he reflected on the beginnings of this seven-year partnership. OrthoIndy was looking for opportunities to support the community while also providing employees time off to volunteer and SAWs was a perfect fit.



*OrthoIndy staff make the most of their paid volunteer time with SAWs.*

With over 950 employees across all locations, OrthoIndy makes a sizeable impact in the community and improves the lives of their employees while doing so. Employees are given the opportunity to donate their time and skills and when they contribute monetarily, OrthoIndy Foundation also matches those gifts.

Since 2012, OrthoIndy's continued support has enabled SAWs growth. "Without the support of OrthoIndy, we simply would not be where we are today," said Christina Starace, Executive Director of SAWs. "Their generous grants and steady supply of hard-working volunteers make OrthoIndy an invaluable partner. They have provided us with the ability to free more people who would otherwise be trapped in their homes and we are incredibly grateful for their strong support."

***The mission of the OIF is to improve mobility and function, specifically for the residents of Central Indiana –with a particular emphasis on veterans and the elderly– by benefiting the end users to increase self-sufficiency, promote wellness, and improve the quality of life for those affected by orthopedic issues.***



*OrthoIndy volunteers pause to smile with project manager Mike Hart.*

***"The SAWs mission statement is terrific and it aligns with our mission." — Dr. John Dietz.***



## SAVE THE DATE!



No matter how rapid the arrival of professional emergency responders, bystanders will always be first on the scene. Because a person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes, it is important to quickly stop the blood loss.

Those nearest to someone with life-threatening injuries are best positioned to provide first care.

Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign and call to-action. It is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.

SAWs is excited to partner with Hamilton County Health Department to offer this class free to all of our volunteers. **The class will be held at the SAWs Office on Tuesday, September 10th at 6 pm. Email Emily at [ebarrow@sawsramps.org](mailto:ebarrow@sawsramps.org) to reserve your spot for this training.**



## ★ NIGHT AT THE BALLPARK ★

**WHEN:** Tuesday, August 27th, 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Indianapolis Indians Game, 501 W. Maryland St.

Contact Emily at [ebarrow@sawsramps.org](mailto:ebarrow@sawsramps.org) for details

**SAWs Kroger Rewards Number: EP501**

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### 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](http://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](mailto:cecommunityrewards@kroger.com) or call 317-579-8324 or 317-579-8321.



### AMAZON SMILE:

Make your amazon purchases at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and .5% of your purchase price will go to SAWs when you register SAWs as the charity of your choice.



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