

Fall 2019

VOL 6 : Issue 4

SAWs Connections

NEWS FROM SERVANTS AT WORK ► SAWSRAMPS.ORG

From the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

As we head into the home stretch of 2019, we have much for which to be thankful. At the top of our gratitude list are our volunteers and donors who form the backbone of this organization. Your gifts of time, talent

and treasure empower us to fulfill our mission of freeing those who are trapped in their homes. We cannot thank you enough.

When it comes to technology, your feedback has helped us update our website and develop user-friendly solutions. Our new mobile-friendly online volunteer platform is easier and more convenient to use when volunteers register or sign in on the job site. Many of you have requested simpler ways to make credit card gifts and set up recurring payments online and we are in the process of implementing these options.

Our corporate team-building program is growing, and we are excited to welcome several new companies who have chosen to invest in SAWs' mission. These groups bring energy and enthusiasm, and sometimes corporate volunteers even come back to build with us on their own. We are thrilled every time a business chooses SAWs as their vehicle for giving back to the community. Would your business benefit from doing a team-building project with SAWs? Feel free to reach out directly to me to learn more.

Safety is a high priority at SAWs and we are excited to announce that we have received a second AED from Brian's Heart, the same organization that provided us with our first AED last year. While we hope to never need it, this addition will ensure that we can respond quickly in an emergency.

And finally, while the 2019 build season is winding down, there is still time to participate! If you haven't done so already, register as a volunteer at www.sawsramps.org and join us for one of our final builds of the year. And during this season of giving thanks, please give generously to SAWs. Your gifts literally change lives.

With gratitude for your support,

Christina Starace, Executive Director



Legacy Society Members We give thanks for the generosity of the following individuals who have included SAWs in their estate plans. Future gifts like theirs will ensure that SAWs continues to build ramps for those in need for years to come.

Dave and Judy Ditzler
Julie Finke
Joe and Cecilia Keller
Tom and Jennifer Lipinski
Mike and Laura Mathews
Ana and Bob Sweet

Would you like your legacy gift to SAWs to be recognized?
Please contact **Christina Starace** at 317.844.7664 x6049.

Building Freedom
one ramp at a time

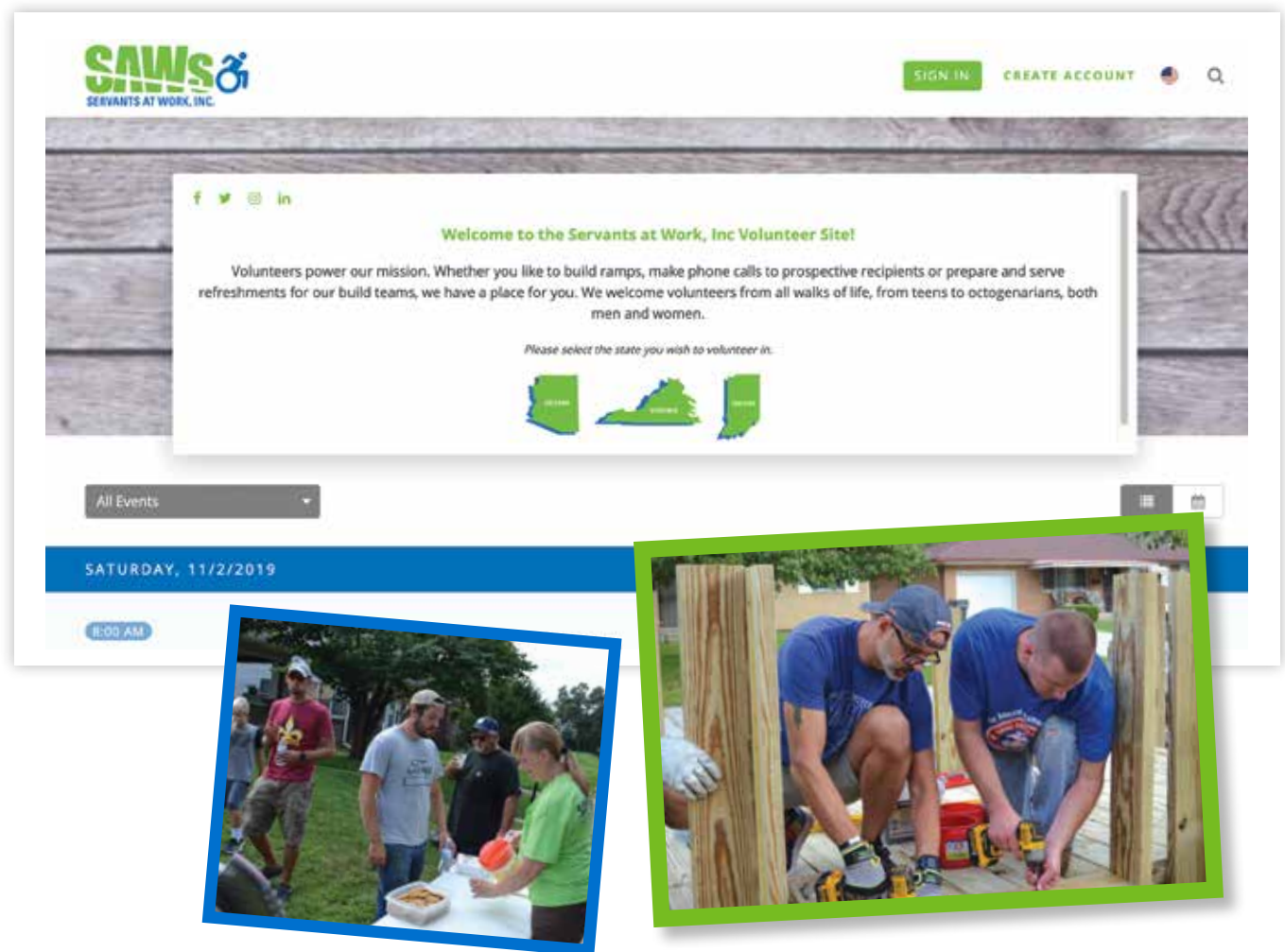
Welcome VounteerHub!

SAWs depends on countless volunteers to live out the mission of giving freedom to those trapped in their home by building high quality, wooden wheelchair ramps. As we continue to grow, the need for a better way to manage volunteer hours and communication has become apparent. After months of searching for the best solution, VolunteerHub has emerged on top.

We are thrilled to share this new and improved volunteer management system with our supporters. We think you will agree that it has many advantages, including the ability to track volunteer hours. It is mobile-friendly and offers improved messaging capabilities. It also allows our state affiliates to post opportunities on our site. It's nothing short of GREAT!

As we transition to this new system, look for more volunteer opportunities to be posted, such as serving on the Celebration Team, helping in the office and working on the Finishing Crew. While we recognize that using new software will be a change for everyone, we are hopeful that the new system will allow us to better communicate and be more inclusive in our messaging to our numerous volunteers.

We hope you will volunteer with us soon! Please access the new volunteer site at www.sawsramps.org, then click on "Volunteer." Thank you for sharing your time and talent with SAWs!



Follow us on:

SawsRamps.org



Servants at Work Happenings in the Hubs

KOKOMO



On a cold and blustery day in mid-November of 2014, six men from Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) converged on Marsha's small trailer home on North Washington Street in Kokomo.

The wind blew, some snow fell, but it was no match for the resolve of these men. They took a pile of lumber and converted it into a ramp which became a gateway to freedom for Marsha. Fingers were numb and noses were runny, but the men fell in love. They fell in love with the feeling they got from watching Marsha come down that ramp and seeing the smile on her face and the tears in her eyes. They fell in love with helping someone who couldn't help themselves.

One of the men told a friend from church about the ramp. That friend called SAWs and said he wanted to help. From that call, Crossroads Community Church joined in the SAWs mission. As the need for ramps in the area became increasingly obvious, the number of volunteers grew. One member of the congregation told a friend that worked with United Way of Howard and Tipton Counties. Soon after, SAWs received a United Way grant to enable us to continue building ramps for those in need.

In a couple of years SAWs was joined by the Crossing School for Business and Entrepreneurship along with the energetic students enrolled there. They prefabricated the ramp parts in one of their classrooms, helped carry the parts to the build site and assembled ramp after ramp. In the past year, Howard County became a Hub for the surrounding counties (Tipton, Clinton, Carroll and Miami). With the donation of warehouse space by David Rayl of Dick Rayl Associates, the Hub now has plenty of space to store materials,

prefabricated ramp parts and the tools needed for the effort. Thanks to the generosity of time, talent and treasure of our partners over the course of the past six years, SAWs has built eighty-one ramps in Howard and its surrounding Counties.

The men of FCA's Skilled Trades group continue to build with SAWs. This year they have built four ramps thus far and plan to do as many more as weather allows. Thanks to them and all the other churches, groups and companies from the area, low-income people with disabilities will be able to rejoin their families, neighborhoods and communities. FCA's latest recipient of their efforts, a double amputee named Robin, put it this way: "Now I don't have to look out the window and wish I was outside."



The men of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, one of SAWs' volunteer groups in Kokomo, stand on the ramp they recently completed for Robin.

"Now I don't have to look out the window and wish I was outside" — Robin, SAW's client

Why I give...

MIKE CLEMENS



Mike and his wife, Ginger, have been involved in their neighborhood since they moved to Indianapolis in 1984. For them, their involvement has been a way of living their faith. Mike serves on the board of the

West Indy Community Development Corporation and it was through a need in his neighborhood that he first learned of SAWs. When Mike was tasked with finding a way to build a ramp for a senior, he found SAWs online. And after he volunteered on the job site, he was hooked.

"The nice thing about SAWs is that you don't have to be good at anything but showing up, following directions and asking questions. The experienced volunteers are really great about teaching you what you need to know."

— Mike Clemens

Not only does Mike give of his time, he supports SAWs financially. In the past year, Mike set up recurring donations to SAWs by checking a box on our online form to choose an amount to give automatically every month. It helps SAWs weather the natural ebb and flow of the fiscal year and helps us plan for the coming months. Mike likes this option because "I just set it and forget it. It feels good to do something that is tangibly helping someone."

Clearly, Mike has led a lifetime of service. As he reflected on the ways he spends his time and money, he said, "The bottom line I ask myself is this: What difference do my actions make in myself and in others?"



Mike Clemens and fellow volunteers smile after completing a ramp in 2018.



Welcome New Building Partners!

We are pleased to announce the following businesses in Central Indiana who have built their first ramp with SAWs this fall:

Braunability (Carmel location)
DS Smith
EdgelT
Old National Bank
Rehab Medical
Roche
Universal Roofing & Exteriors

Together, we are freeing those who have been imprisoned in their homes. Thank you for investing your time, talent and treasure in SAWs!



Giving Tuesday: December 3

Remember to go online and give to SAWs on Giving Tuesday! For each gift of \$10 or more, we will reserve a SAWs water bottle for you to pick up at our office at your leisure.

Mark your calendars now!



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.



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. We also have black stocking caps with the green SAWs logo on the front for \$15 each.

Please email Emily Barrow at ebarrow@sawsramps.org to order.



SAWs merchandise

Fall 2019 Newsletter Donor Recognition

Our PARTNERS

ORTHOINDY
FOUNDATION

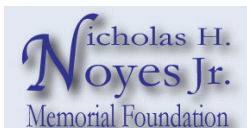
 **CENTRAL INDIANA
SENIOR FUND**
A CICF FUND


**SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**


Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership


The
**GLICK
FUND**
A CICF Fund

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of Howard County


Nicholas H.
Noyes Jr.
Memorial Foundation

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

 **Cass County
Community
Foundation**


**OLD NATIONAL BANK[®]
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Samerian
FOUNDATION, INC.

 **CommunityFoundation**
of Grant County, Indiana, Inc.


Reid Health

 **MADISON COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**


HeritageFund
The Community Foundation of Bartholomew County


Hf
HADDAD
FOUNDATION

 **Community
Foundation of
Wabash County**

**Round Robins
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