

Winter 2020

VOL7 : Issue 1

# SAWs Connections

NEWS FROM SERVANTS AT WORK ► [SAWSRAMPS.ORG](http://SAWSRAMPS.ORG)

## From the Executive Director



### Dear Friends,

As we begin a new year, we are grateful for the many hands, hearts and minds that it takes to effectively run this organization and meet our mission. SAWs ended 2019 in a position of strength and continues

to be on a growth trajectory with no end in sight. We anticipate exciting changes in 2020 including hiring our first Operations Manager to oversee the work in our warehouse and manage an ever-increasing schedule of builds throughout Indiana.

We are hosting our first organization-wide Leadership Summit in February during which we will focus on standardizing safety procedures and best practices at every build site. It will be wonderful to welcome leaders from across Indiana as well as Arizona and Virginia to share and learn from one another. Having wrapped up last season with 372 completed ramps, we have a lot to celebrate as we lay the foundation for the path forward.

In addition to increasing the number of ramps we built last year, we also substantially increased the number of businesses that support SAWs. As word spreads about our Corporate Team Build opportunities and as business leaders experience it for themselves, we continue to receive more requests. Churches also substantially increased their support for SAWs in 2019. Both new and seasoned volunteers continue to find it to be a worthwhile and memorable experience to help someone gain their freedom.

By giving of your time, talent and treasure, you enabled SAWs to change more lives in 2019 than ever before. The year ahead looks to be another record-breaking year with significantly increased capacity for helping those in need. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

With gratitude,

**Christina Starace, Executive Director**

## Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

Required minimum distributions are withdrawals that the IRS requires you to take from your retirement accounts upon reaching the age of 72 (new in 2020). In IRAs, 401(k)s and similar accounts, no tax is due until you start making withdrawals. However, when you contribute directly from the custodian of your IRA to a nonprofit organization like SAWs, this gift is considered a qualified charitable distribution and therefore does not increase your taxable income.

**For more information**, contact your financial advisor about your specific situation to see if this simple method of giving could benefit you. Your thoughtful gift to SAWs will change more lives by giving them access to and from their homes.



**Building Freedom**  
one ramp at a time

# SAWs Inaugural Leadership Summit



2020 is going to be a busy year for SAWs! As we continue to grow, our attention is turning to standardizing our processes across county and state lines. In February, we are hosting SAWs volunteer leaders for a two-day training to cover a number of important topics while also providing an opportunity for Project Managers and Area Coordinators across the organization to meet and share ideas.

We look forward to welcoming speakers with various areas of expertise to share stories from the field. Our speakers include insurance professionals, CPR and Stop the Bleed trainers, experienced SAWs Project Managers, survey leaders and an attorney. Staff participants include our Outreach Director, our Founder and our Executive Director. We also anticipate introducing attendees to the newest member of our staff, our Operations Manager.

The Summit is intended to include both work and play. Our goal is for everyone to learn a lot and also have fun connecting with others who share their passion for this organization. We will stretch ourselves to learn new skills and make new friends in the process.

SAWs is providing meals and accommodations for out-of-town guests thanks to the generosity of our sponsors: Gillman Home Center, Henry Poor Lumber, ProBuild and First Construction Consulting. Thank you for supporting SAWs and helping us grow!

## SAWs Leadership Best Practices and Safety Summit

Drury Plaza Hotel • Carmel, Indiana

### Friday 2/21

- 2:00** Registration
- 2:30** Welcome/Importance of Safety and Best Practices
- 2:40** Risk and Liability
- 3:00** Introduction and Objective of the Summit
- 3:15** Ramp Building Safety for the Client and Volunteers/Steps
- 3:45** Volunteer Hub and Referral System
- 4:35** Intentional Recruiting/Diversity
- 5:10** Surveys – Critical Step/Two Questions/Safety
- 6:00** Social Time/Dinner

### Saturday 2/22

- 8:30** Prebuild Project Manager Talk/Prestart Checks Maintenance Brochure
- 8:55** OSHA Presentation
- 10:05** Material List Use and Posting
- 10:20** Corporate Team Build Protocol
- 10:40** Comfortable Fundraising and Q&A
- 11:30** Safety Policies and Responsibilities: A Legal Perspective
- 12:30** Stop the Bleed/CPR Training



Follow us on:

[SawsRamps.org](http://SawsRamps.org)



## Servants at Work Happenings in the Hubs

### TIPPECANOE

SAWs has been building wheelchair ramps in Tippecanoe County area for almost 11 years. It all began when John Hunter, a SAWs volunteer who works at Subaru of Indiana Automotive, stepped forward. John found it convenient to do site evaluations, prefabrication and construction after work and recruited fellow workers from the plant to volunteer with him.

Over the years, our efforts in Lafayette have been enhanced by a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Lafayette and the support of area churches including Northview Community Church/Lafayette and St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Volunteers join us from fraternities and sororities at Purdue along with volunteers from Vectren. Partnerships with the Crossing School of Business and Entrepreneurship, Community Ventures in Living, Area IV Agency on Aging and Henry Poor Lumber help to fund, staff and supply the SAWs mission in the area. It takes a village to build a ramp!

The Lafayette Hub now oversees and facilitates ramp building in an eight-county area including Benton, Fountain, Montgomery, Clinton, Carroll, White and Warren counties. In 2019, we completed the installation of 13 ramps in the Lafayette area and 17 ramps in the other seven counties,

ending the season with 30 ramps built in the hub which means 30 people were freed from their homes.

One of our recipients was Carlene. She is nearly 90 and while she could use a walker inside her bungalow and a scooter outside of her home, she could not get the scooter past the front door. The moment her ramp was built, Carlene was out the door on her scooter and down the street. Freedom!



*Carlene had already waited years and couldn't wait a moment longer to enjoy her newfound freedom.*

2020 is shaping up to be a very busy year for the Tippecanoe Hub and its spoke counties. We are seeking more volunteers and leaders for this area along with a larger facility in which to prefabricate ramp parts and store materials. Currently there are 20 individuals in the area waiting to regain their freedom. Can you help?



*SAWs volunteers smile for the camera with Project Manger John Hunter (far left) after completing a ramp for a deserving recipient.*



## Why I give...

MIKE MATHEWS



**What initially drew you to SAWs?** When I returned from volunteering in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, I realized I wanted to become actively engaged with a charitable organization at home. It's important for me to have hands-on involvement and SAWs is perfect for that.

**What keeps you volunteering with SAWs after 10 years of service?** I've seen SAWs mature from a bunch of guys getting in trucks to go build a ramp to a well-functioning organization. I was there when someone came up with the idea of pre-fabricating ramp parts which has saved countless volunteer hours over the years and enabled us to help more people. I've served on the board and have observed it getting better and better with younger people and new ideas in recent years. Volunteering with SAWs is just enjoyable to me. It has become part of my life. It's part of who I am.

**What is your favorite thing about volunteering with SAWs?** I enjoy helping people at the lower end of the economic spectrum who have no other options for gaining their freedom. I enjoy the camaraderie of the teams I build with. And of course, it is very satisfying to see a project from start to finish in four short hours. With SAWs you get to experience the completion of the project and see the impact it has on our recipients and their families.

**Why do you support SAWs financially?** I am blessed to be able to give my time, talent and treasure to support SAWs. I am blessed because I am able to do so. Giving to SAWs grows out of my faith and follows my involvement.

**What difference have you seen your gifts make?** More ramps have been built as more people have given to support SAWs. That means that my gifts and the gifts of others provide more people with the freedom to leave their homes. Each recipient has at least one caregiver (usually more) whose lives are also improved with the presence of a ramp.

**What was your most memorable build?** Building for a child is always special. The kids are always ecstatic when they can finally get out of their house and that is fun to see. It's also fun when their siblings work alongside us and participate in the build. It means a lot to the family when they can participate and it's fun for us.



**YOU MUST DESIGNATE SAWs AS A RECIPIENT FOR YOUR REWARDS EVERY YEAR.** Please take a moment to update your account.

## Save the Date



**CPR**  
**Saturday, March 14**  
 2:00-3:30 at SAWs



**Stop the Bleed**  
**Tuesday, March 17**  
 6:00-7:30 at SAWs



**Annual Picnic**  
**Sunday, May 3**  
 11:00-1:30 at SAWs

**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](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.



**Integrity**  
**Respect**  
**Inclusion**  
**Collaboration**  
**Reliability**

**SAWs**   
 SERVANTS AT WORK, INC.  
Building Freedom One Ramp at a Time

The board of directors recently adopted our organizational values which reflect our identity. Each value refers to the way in which we interact with volunteers, donors, staff and partner organizations.

**Integrity** We are honest and fair in our dealings.

**Respect** We treat everyone with respect.

**Inclusion** We serve anyone who meets our criteria and welcome all to serve with us as volunteers.

**Collaboration** We work together and share information to achieve our mission and change lives.

**Reliability** We are trustworthy. When we make a commitment, we follow through.

# Winter 2020 Newsletter Donor Recognition

## OUR PARTNERS



P.O. Box 68831  
Indianapolis, IN 46268