

Summer 2020

VOL 8 : Issue 2

# SAWs & Connections

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

## From the Executive Director



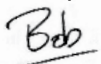
Dear Friends,

**Good News!** SAWs is up and running for 2020 as we built our first four ramps during the week of May 18th. Congratulations to our Staff and Volunteers for making this restart a success. It couldn't come at a more critical time, as

our ramp backlog has now grown to over 350 clients and continues to increase. This comes after a record ramp building season during 2019 with over 347 ramps built in the State of Indiana, not counting our out of state Affiliates in Arizona and Virginia. The need to provide freedom, independence and dignity to clients trapped in their homes is more important than ever before.

It's not going to be an easy task for us to reduce the backlog due to the shortened build season from our normal 37 weeks down to 25 and the economic downturn which has impacted donations. These factors continue to cause headwinds to our fiscal budget and our planned strategy for 2020. We will not let this deter us! If you can donate or volunteer your time; your efforts will allow us to continue to move forward with our mission.

Thank you,



**Bob Richmond, Executive Director**



## BuilderTrend

We took the opportunity during the COVID-19 down time to implement a new project management solution called BuilderTrend. This program will allow us to streamline client processing, eliminate unnecessary steps that caused delays, and expedite the client application vetting process and ultimately fast track the entire SAWs process. This could not have been accomplished without the lead from our Board members Al Erickson and Aaron Johnson along with additional support and field training by Emily Barrow, Rafe Mount and Rik Hagarty from our Staff. Their tremendous effort enabled this conversion to be completed in less than 75 days and the benefits were measurable once we re-started and scheduled future builds.



**Building Freedom**  
one ramp at a time



## Message from the Founder

**RIK HAGARTY**

Time is the single most precious commodity known to man. It does not matter if we are rich or poor, intelligent or challenged, happy or sad, joyous or depressed. We all get the same number of hours every day. The past few months have given us all a much greater appreciation of time and how we use it.

Isolation for most of us is ending. However, the isolation experienced by low income people with disabilities will end only when SAWs builds their bridge to freedom...their wheelchair ramp. While the safety of each of our volunteers and clients is our first priority, freeing people with disabilities from their isolation is our mission.

Donations, sponsorships, and grants are the lifeblood of the SAWs organization and we continue to need all we can get. If funding is the lifeblood, volunteers turn that blood into action. Four adults and two adolescents built the first ramp. Today, our ranks have swelled from that small group to hundreds throughout Indiana, Arizona, and Virginia. Last year our volunteers, through the support of our donors, restored 378 people to their families, friends, and communities.

The need keeps growing. We need more volunteers, more volunteer leadership, more donations to support the volunteers' efforts. There are thousands of people that are trapped in their homes by their disabilities waiting to be released from their isolation. Every one of us is given 24 hours each day. How will you spend yours? There are not words to tell you how valuable your time is to us. **Visit the SAWs web site [www.sawsramps.org](http://www.sawsramps.org).**

**THANK YOU** for your gift of time.

## SAWs 2019 Rearview Mirror

A little over two years ago the SAWs Board of Directors implemented a Strategic plan. Two aspects of that plan were to:

- 1. Expand SAWs ramp building across the entire state of Indiana and**
- 2. Capture the opportunity to establish affiliates beyond Indiana.**

At the end of 2019, we observed early results indicating success in implementing that strategic plan. The following graphic illustrates the number of ramps built with our new "Hub and Spoke" format across the State during 2019 and with our two Affiliates that now build ramps in Virginia and Arizona.

### SAWs Ramp Build 2018 vs 2019

Description	2018	2019	Percent Increase
Ramps Built throughout the State of Indiana	227	300	32.2%
<b>Ramps with Partners</b> (Johnson, Putnam, Vigo)*	41	47	14.6%
<b>SAWs Affiliates:</b> Virginia & Arizona ramp builds*	0	25	100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>38.8%</b>

\* Ramps are not paid with Indiana SAWs funds



**Follow us on:**

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



Servants at Work

NEW Operations Manager

RAFE MOUNT



I have volunteered with SAWs for the past two years as a project manager here in Marion County. During my career, I was a construction superintendent for Habitat for Humanity. My key job requirement was to teach hundreds of volunteers how to build a home. Before being employed with Habitat,

I was part of their Tiger volunteer team.

I received my BA in Finance and Management from Marian University. I love spending time with my

family participating together in outdoor activities and riding my motorcycle. I also enjoy repairing just about anything.

This has been an interesting start for me, as three weeks after I started, we ceased ramp operation. In the last few months, I have had the opportunity to research and gather a tremendous amount of PPE for our upcoming build season. All our volunteers should be able to feel safe and confident that we have put forth our best efforts for their safety and the safety of our clients.

I look forward to meeting you on the build sites!



Rafe (on far left) leads and trains SAWs work crews throughout the state of Indiana.

## Donor Spotlight

### OrthoIndy and Indiana Orthopedic Hospital Foundation Fund

The SAWs organization, the Board of Directors, the Volunteers and the Staff want to extend a gigantic Thank you to the OrthoIndy and Indiana Orthopedic Hospital Foundation Fund a fund of Central Indiana Community Foundation. SAWs and OrthoIndy Foundation have been partners for five years and the relationship has grown by leaps and bounds. In January the OrthoIndy Foundation honored the work SAWs performs by providing a three-year grant. This was the first multi-year grant that OrthoIndy Foundation had ever funded which allowed SAWs to hire a full time Operations Manager. The Nurses, Doctors, and Administrators have built numerous ramps over the years and they even participate in our ramp prefabrications before the build is done on site.

**This relationship is the model prototype for a Corporate partnership, and we are grateful for their continued support. Thank you.**





# SAWs Restarts Ramp Building

SAWs just had to prove that you can build ramps and free people from the prisons of their homes in the middle of a Pandemic. **The week of May 18th SAWs restarted building ramps while implementing a COVID-19 Protocol.** Not easy to perform ramp construction with a hospital mask in place and attempting to keep social distancing. Outstanding job by all our Volunteers as we continue to provide freedom to our clients in need.



# Polo at Sunset – Save the Date

**Polo matches are played in Indiana?** Yes, they are in Whitestown every Friday evening June thru October. SAWs is excited to co-sponsor a charity fund raising event this year on August 28th at Hickory Hall Polo Grounds. Checkout their website at <http://www.indypolo.com> and visit our Website and Facebook pages for more information. Become a Sponsor or purchase advance tickets. Save the date and we hope to see you there.



**POLO AT SUNSET**

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28TH  
 HICKORY HALL POLO CLUB  
 7551 E. 100 N. WHITESTOWN, IN 46075

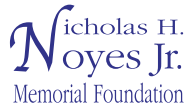
Benefiting:





# Summer 2020 Newsletter Donor Recognition

OUR PARTNERS



P.O. Box 68831  
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Return service requested