

Fall 2020

VOL 9 : Issue 3

SAWs♿ Connections

NEWS FROM SERVANTS AT WORK ► SAWSRAMPS.ORG

Executive Director Report



Dear Friends,

The ramp building season is winding down and I just cannot believe it is October. What a year!!!! And I mean that in a positive light. We had a terrific Polo Event fundraiser in late August, SAWs got back on track building ramps in the Indy metro area as well as all over the State of

Indiana. Other important milestones: we established a new Indiana hub in Bloomington, successfully implemented a new software system, and the Board of Directors added three new Board members. Plus, a wonderful opportunity arose as SAWs was blessed to support a young police officer recently disabled in the line of duty.

We are honored to illustrate why the SAWs mission is so important to those we serve. Many times, too numerous to mention, thank you cards, and letters are received from our clients and their family members. They share a special place on our office bulletin board, but most importantly these messages fill our hearts with joy and humble us. We thought you would like to see a few.

Speaking of our mission and our client's needs, the backlog to build ramps is growing faster than we can service this year as you can imagine with the ramp building slow-down we experienced earlier in the year. We are announcing a year-end fundraising "stretch drive" to

offset the enormous increase in lumber costs and be prepared to hit the ground running in 2021 to service our growing client backlog.

Thank you,

Bob Richmond, Executive Director

Freedom Drive

There are times when the best laid plans fall short of expectations. Lumber costs in 2020 have increased by more than 80% and the build season was shortened by almost 12 weeks. Do not be discouraged, SAWs is coming back in 2021 stronger than ever. We have a fundraising goal of more than \$120,000 between September and the end of 2020. As you can see by this graphic we are off to a terrific start.

Please consider helping us exceed our Stretch Drive Goal and make a donation today. Donations can be made online at www.sawsramps.org/donate or you can mail a check to: Servants at Work, PO Box 68831, Indianapolis, IN 46268.



Building Freedom
one ramp at a time

Testimonials

In Acts 20:19, Paul writes, "...served the Lord with great humility and tears..." **Humble is what we feel when we get expressions of gratitude from the people for whom we build that have so little.**

P.S. Thank you for rething what would be better for me. I can never say thank you enough.

Dear Saw Men,
Words can never say
Thank you so much.
I can finally walk up
and down! Thank your organization
For your loving heart
and your helping hands.

With
Light
+
Love
Ellen Davis

"Thank you so much. I can finally walk up and down."

With Light and Love, Ellen

In other words...
THANKS!

Cannot thank you
enough for the
ramp. Your generous
hard work has
my mom with
outside in many, many
months
Wishing you more
blessings. *Elsa Vian*
ELSA VIAN - U.S.

"Your generosity and hard work has blessed my mom with her visit outside in many, many month."

Elsa Vian

Thank You

A wise man once said:
"Great people are capable
of doing great things"
Thank You so much
for making our lives easier
by building a perfect Ramp
May God Bless,

To the entire team
and the National Bank for
their generosity!
You are so very nice!

Thank You again,
John S. Collier, Jr.
Korean War Veteran
90 years young

"Thank you so much for making our lives easier by building a perfect ramp."

May God Bless, John, Korean War Veteran, 90 years young

A Great Big
THANKS
To All of You

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Servants at Work Newly Organized MONROE COUNTY HUB

The city of Bloomington, Indiana is most often associated with the Hurrying Hoosiers of Indiana University. Like every other city in the state, there is poverty and people with disabilities who are trapped in their homes because of the lack of accessibility. Residents of Monroe County, of which Bloomington is the county seat, can often be overlooked because of the prominence and fame of IU.

However, there is a group in Bloomington called Hope Builders that performs a wide range of services for many of the non-profits in the Bloomington area with a diverse group of volunteers. Steve Dyer and Hope Builders have committed to help build ramps for the low-income people with disabilities in and around Monroe County.

Brandt Downey, an employee of Cook, Inc., is teaming up with Steve as Area Coordinator. Monroe County will act as a SAWs "Hub" to help serve Owen, Morgan, and Brown

Counties' disabled residents. The effort is being aided by support from City of Bloomington Council for Community

Accessibility, The Bloomington Salvation Army, Southern Indiana Council on Independent Living, and Area 10 Agency on Aging. Volunteers are being drawn from Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, the youth from First United Methodist Church, and other area churches but they need more volunteers due to increased need.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Monroe County Hub, contact Bradt Downey at brandt.downey@yahoo.com.



Monroe County volunteers attended a one-day training to learn about the SAWs building process

Special Ramp Build

Jessica woke up and began to plan her day over her first cup of coffee. Being a police officer was what she had always wanted to be, but it could get hectic. She and her partner were well into their shift when they were called out for a mental health issue. When they arrived, they found a female that was highly agitated and acting erratically. The woman was in a car that was running and acting very aggressively.

When Jessica approached the car in an attempt to calm the lady, she suddenly turned the wheel sharply and floored the car backwards. The car's tire caught Jessica's leg under it. In the hospital, doctors discovered that her ankle was shattered and her knee badly damaged. The prognosis was that it would be a long time before she would be able to walk normally.

Jessica's partner is the son of a local not-for-profit's president who was familiar with SAWs, having done work with us as a part of their child-focused mission. Knowing that Jessica would have a long recovery, they reached out to SAWs. In less than a week, her ramp had been designed and was ready to build. With the help of fellow officers and volunteers from Park Chapel Church in Greenfield, the small but sturdy ramp was built within three weeks of Jessica's injury.

There are so many instances where we are building for someone whose life has changed in an instant, like Jessica's. The need continues to increase for volunteers, leadership, and funding.



A small, but mighty crew completed a ramp to free Jessica. They were proud to support our First Responders.

Fundraising

Polo Event

Timing in life is everything as the saying goes. Hurricane Laura could not have arrived in central Indiana at a more inconvenient time on the afternoon of August 28th. As the Polo committee drove out to the Hickory Hall Polo Club at 2:00 PM that afternoon, the rain could not have been coming down any harder. However, by 5:00 the skies cleared, and we did not miss a beat as the Polo match unfolded right on schedule. I am pleased to report SAWs exceeded their expectations for donations. The silent auction and sponsorships totaled approximately \$20,000 for the event. The event was a success!

Many thanks must go out to so many. We are so thankful for the Sponsors support and attendance (highlighted on the right). Board members were there rain or shine to help man all the event activities, construct the tents, organize the silent auction and the food delivery. A special thank you to our Volunteers and our Polo Chairman, Carol Smith. SAWs has the best volunteers anywhere in Indiana!!! The children's airplane candy drop at half time was priceless. Great job done by everyone. If you missed the Polo event, maybe we will see you next year!



FREEDOM SPONSORS (TOP LEVEL)



BUILDER SPONSORS



PREFAB SPONSORS



Board Member Rob French and his family made and sold 80 pool noodle ponies for the event. It was great to see their family supporting SAWs and the children enjoying the pool noodle races. Pictured here is Rob and his wife Sandi.



WELCOME!

New Board Members

Diane Hyatt



Diane Hyatt joined the SAWs board in June of 2020. Diane is the Community Marketing Manager at Old National Bank covering the Lafayette, Indianapolis, Bloomington, Terre Haute, Anderson and Muncie markets. Diane has 30 years of marketing and public relations experience with 20 years of that in the

financial industry and 7 years in the non-profit sector. She has been a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters for the past 8 years. Diane received her bachelor's degree from Davenport University in Lansing, Michigan and her MBA from Cardinal Stritch University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She and her husband spend much of their time with their two sons that includes a lot of time volunteering for the Hamilton Southeastern soccer program.

Ryan Lynch



Ryan holds a Bachelor's Degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Aeronautical Science with a minor in Aviation Weather. He is currently a 14-year commercial airline pilot, Captain for Republic Airways, Flight Training Instructor, Manager Pilot Mentor Program, Sr. Pilot Recruiter

for his company, and is currently pursuing his Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Liberty University. After successfully completing this degree, his next goal will be to achieve a PHD. Ryan also has a passion for serving in the community. His experience includes currently serving on various Board positions, committees, directing community programs as well as mentoring students in education and development programs. Ryan serves as

an educator/professor for Purdue University Polytechnic Indianapolis. He is the Founder/Board Chairmen of The NAYR (National Aviation Youth Resources) Foundation Inc, an aviation youth organization in Indiana. Throughout his career he has invested in young entrepreneurs.

Uriah Steffen



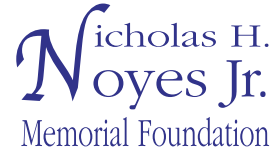
Uriah is an Amputee Life Coach and Mentor serving the Greater Indiana area for the last six years. Uriah is a professional athlete competing in the sport of para triathlons. He currently competes for Team USA in the ITU Race Series and hopes to represent the USA at the 2024 and 2028 Paralympics.

Uriah and his wife Angela have two daughters. They attend Plainfield Christian Church where they serve and host home groups. He co-organizes Brethren of the Feast, a local faith-based men's group out of Plainfield, Indiana, motivating and encouraging young men to follow Jesus. Uriah also enjoys camping, hiking, fitness, and spending time with his family. Look outside and you might see him running downtown Indy at any given moment.



Fall 2020 Newsletter Donor Recognition

Our PARTNERS



P.O. Box 68831
Indianapolis, IN 46268

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