

SAWs & Connections

NEWS FROM SERVANTS AT WORK ► SAWSRAMPS.ORG

Executive Director Message

Dear Friends,



In March of 2020, I volunteered to be SAWs Executive Director, just as the pandemic began, after serving as Treasurer on the SAWs Board of Directors. SAWs shut down for eleven weeks which allowed me time to wade into the deep end and fully understand what a great organization I was being honored to

direct. Together with the staff, we embarked on programs to increase donations, procure and implement new software for growth, establish a proactive culture, build a sustainable organization, and serve more clients than ever throughout the state. After two years as the director, I can depart knowing these key initiatives are in place, and SAWs thrives as one of the best nonprofits in the State of Indiana. The SAWs staff is a terrific complement of individuals with a variety of backgrounds that fit the SAWs mission, and their love and support for our clients is remarkable. Please take the time to read the stories in this newsletter put together by the staff.

I personally have enjoyed every minute, every day, every month, and hearing every client's story. I felt the Lord calling me to join SAWs back in 2018 and I cannot thank the Board members enough for allowing me to serve with them, including Pastor Eric, David, Ryan, Rob, Diane, Al, Mike Matthews, Tom Lipinski, all the project managers;

Jim, Chuck, Don, Walt, Pete and so many wonderful volunteers too numerous to mention. I wish the best for the new Executive Director, Mike Thompson, as he spearheads taking SAWs to the next level of success.

With so much gratitude, it has been a pleasure to serve.... and I look forward to seeing you on a Saturday morning ramp build!

Thank you,

Bob Richmond, Executive Director

5th grader Jamya tests her new ramp thanks to a partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Photo by J. Cleary, The Herald Bulletin



Changing lives
one ramp at a time

Partner Spotlight BraunAbility



BraunAbility, the Indiana-based global leader in wheelchair-accessible vehicles and lifts, is recognizing its 50th anniversary by partnering with SAWs on an ambitious goal: to build 50 ramps in 50 days in the communities where its employees live and work.

"SAWs changes lives by enabling clients to safely get outside of their own homes, and our products allow our customers and their families to connect with their communities" stated BraunAbility CEO Staci Kroon. "It makes perfect sense to mark our 50th anniversary by giving back to residents who need greater mobility freedom in our communities."

The majority of the 50 ramps will be built in the Indiana communities where BraunAbility employees live and work, but also in select markets around the country where it owns retail locations.

"SAWs is honored to partner with BraunAbility to celebrate their milestone 50th anniversary," said Bob Richmond, SAWs Executive Director. "Our missions are truly complementary, and BraunAbility is a proven leader in the industry nationwide."

The 50 ramps will be built in July and August by SAWs and BraunAbility volunteers, completely free to the recipient. Each ramp adheres strictly to ADA standards.

SAWs' fundraising campaign, #50in50, gives supporters the opportunity to help change a life and double their impact. BraunAbility has generously offered to match all donations up to \$50,000 through May 13, 2022. Donate today to make sure your gift is eligible to make twice the difference in someone's life.



BraunAbility employees, SAWs volunteers, and our client after a successful ramp build

"SAWs changes lives by enabling clients to safely get outside of their own homes, and our products allow our customers and their families to connect with their communities" – Staci Kroon, BraunAbility CEO

BraunAbility employees have helped SAWs build ramps for our communities for over 4 years



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What's Happening in the Hubs

SOUTHWEST INDIANA EXPANSION

For over eight years, SAWs has been building ramps in Evansville. Last year, the SAWs Southwestern Indiana group built 15 ramps—in a pandemic environment. Now, thanks to a generous angel donor, SAWs is branching out to all 11 counties in the SW Indiana region to serve people with disabilities in low-income households.

When most people think of Southwestern Indiana, they see a rural part of our state, river towns on the Wabash and the Ohio, and lots of wide-open spaces. The 11 counties that comprise “Southwestern Indiana,” only have 7% of the state’s population. However, the poverty level is almost 50% higher than the state average.

A matching grant of \$50,000 from our angel donor will enable greater community partnership and allow us to work in cooperation with the Agencies on Aging, Community One, and SWIRCA. With a population of almost half a million people in the region, SAWs is striving to serve potentially thousands with a need for accessibility.

Finding a facility in Southwestern Indiana is SAWs’ first priority. SAWs is searching for a space in the Evansville area for ramp prefabrication, to manage the increase in ramp requests, number of volunteers, and area serviced.

To help with our search, please contact Rik Hagarty (rhagarty@sawsramps.org).



Evansville volunteers built these new steps for Barbara

Crew Leadership Summit

In February, SAWs led a Crew Leadership Summit with volunteers from across Indiana. This interactive program reviewed on-site safety and the SAWs ramp building process including qualifying applicants, site evaluations, prefabrication of ramp parts, tips on starting a project, installation techniques, volunteer engagement, and media guidelines.

Under the mentorship of seasoned Project Managers, our new Crew Leaders are set to start with SAWs this year. Crew Leaders teach safe ramp building skills, assign support tasks, and assure quality standards are met. Crew Leaders engage with volunteers and help support the SAWs mission to build freedom one ramp at a time.

SAWs is a volunteer-powered organization. This year, as we aim to build 400 ramps, we need volunteers to achieve this goal. If you are interested in joining our next class of Crew Leaders, contact Tim Thurston tthurston@sawsramps.org



Community One partners with SAWs volunteers in Vanderburgh County

Northview Kokomo high-schoolers help Project Manager Larry construct a new ramp for Stephen



SAWs Year in Review In case you missed it, 2021 brought SAWs to new heights. None of these blessings could have been realized without your donations or volunteering to support the SAWs mission. **Your contributions to SAWs help us continue to spread our mission into 2022 and beyond.**

SAWs
SERVANTS AT WORK, INC.

2021
YEAR IN REVIEW

EXCEEDED 2020 INCOME	26%
AVERAGE RAMP COST	\$1104
AVERAGE RAMP LENGTH	37 ft.

SAWs Volunteers

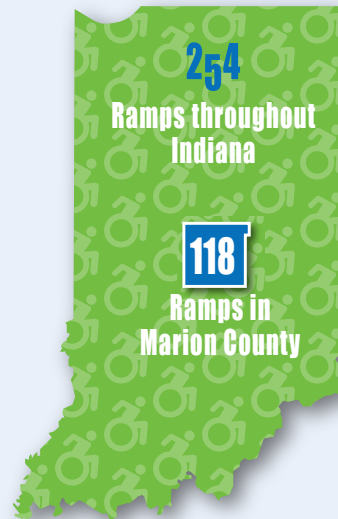
Building 372 ramps was possible because of:

13,185 VOLUNTEER HOURS
1,091 VOLUNTEERS
739 NEW VOLUNTEERS



SAWs built their **3,000th** ramp in 2021

SAWs built **372** ramps in 2021



254
Ramps throughout
Indiana

118
Ramps in
Marion County



SAWs serves a diverse
client base

59% WOMEN
18% AFRICAN AMERICANS
4% HISPANIC
61% CLIENTS OVER THE
AGE OF 50
9% VETERANS



In 2021 SAWs recruited **12 new Project managers** for growth in 2022

SAWs
SERVANTS AT WORK, INC.

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