

Building Freedom One Ramp at a Time

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News & Notes

Text2Give is a new way for you to help free those with disabilities from their homes. This smartphone app allows you to make secure donations to SAWs to continue our work across Indiana. St. Joseph County has 15 persons who are waiting for a SAWs ramp. We have the volunteers but community foundation funding in that area has run out. If you would like to help reconnect them to their community and health services, you can donate via Text2Give by texting "SAWS" to 243-725. Our goal is \$12,000 to set these folks free. Please lend a hand if you can!

Twenty-four volunteers from New Hope Presbyterian Church, participating in their annual Day of Caring, joined with 6 SAWs regulars to build two ramps on a beautiful Sunday morning.

September 19th, the Fishers Rotary club partnered with SAWs to build a ramp in Noblesville. Fishers Rotary is one of our very loyal partners. Regular SAWs volunteers Gordy and Wayne are members of that club.

Cross and Crown and Servants of Christ Lutheran Churches began building 2 SAWs ramps to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

If you have news or photos to share, send them to info@SAWsRamps.org.

We're On Our Way!

The success of SAWs has drawn the attention of persons and groups from Ohio, Illinois, Michigan and Kentucky as well as Oregon, Alabama, New York and Virginia. For some time, it has been the vision of Rik Hagarty, our founder, to answer these calls. SAWs is committed to pursue these inquiries to bring hope and the promise of a fuller and more active life to those with physical disabilities.

Consequently in August, SAWs and The Fuller Center for Housing (TFCH) established a new partnership in our shared mission to provide safe, accessible and affordable homes for those who cannot afford to provide it for themselves. David Snell, President and Co-founder of TFCH and Tom Lipinski, Chairman of the Board of SAWs signed the agreement to collaborate in our shared mission. After the signing, David was elected to the Board of Directors.

"The Fuller Center for Housing is committed to serving homeowners who need a little help with health and safety issues-- issues that often make the difference between their being able to stay in their own home or be forced into a facility. We see our new partnership with SAWs as a way for both organizations to greatly expand our outreach to these folks," said David Snell.



SAWs® (Servants At Work, Inc.) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), volunteer ministry established in 2003 that builds wheelchair ramps to provide the elderly and persons with disabilities access to their world, allowing them to remain in their homes.

A major milestone in the life of SAWs

Millard and Linda Fuller (founders of Habitat for Humanity), David Snell and Ken Henson founded TFCH in 2005 in Americus, Georgia after the Fullers ended their relationship with Habitat. Originally, the mission of TFCH was building homes in countries overseas where housing is a critical need. But when Hurricane Katrina struck, TFCH turned its attention to the housing crisis unfolding along the Gulf Coast. There their mission expanded to repairing homes so the homeowners could remain. SAWs will provide technical support to TFCH affiliates, called Covenant Partners, where ramps are needed as part of renovations and new construction or where ramps alone are requested locally.

Faith-driven and Christ-centered, TFCH promotes innovative partnerships

with individuals and organizations in a quest to provide adequate shelter for all people in need worldwide. This partnership supports the initiative of SAWs to extend its mission with TFCH across the United States. Growth will begin in the Midwest and will expand gradually. This partnership will help indigent persons in over thirty states with adequate housing and mobility to more easily access needed services in their communities.

"This is a major milestone in the life of SAWs. For more than 12 years, SAWs has reached out to persons with disabilities and the elderly across Indiana in order to provide them with the dignity of accessibility and the ability to remain in their own homes," said Rik Hagarty. "Our new partnership with The Fuller Center for Housing will give each of our

organizations a greatly increased ability to provide accessible, livable, and familiar living conditions. This partnership is the beginning of a major relationship to benefit people with disabilities, their families and the volunteers across the country."

Four pilot projects are underway with Covenant Partners of TFCH in Indianapolis, Gary/Hammond, Indiana, Springfield, Ohio and Perry, Georgia. This will have no effect on SAWs operations across Indiana.

SAWs continues to look for partnerships with organizations that share our values and mission. Please contact SAWs if you would like to become a part of our vision. Or visit the SAWs web site to give support or to volunteer.

OrthoIndy and SAWs Team Up

On Thursday, September 17th, employee volunteers of OrthoIndy and volunteers from SAWs worked together to free Derrick who had his mobility taken from him by a bullet.

A drive by shooting left Derrick with a bullet in his brain. Doctors were able to save his life but the bullet forever robbed him of his independence. After months in a rehab hospital, Derrick was ready to come home and try to resume some form of normalcy. Even that was not possible because his near Northside home was not wheelchair accessible. Jackie Gibbs, Derrick's landlord made a phone call to SAWs to ask for help.

SAWs partners with OrthoIndy, Indiana's premiere orthopedic group, to provide personal accessibility to individuals that are otherwise trapped in their own homes. In this case, OrthoIndy em-

ployees from various departments in the hospital joined with the volunteers from SAWs to prefabricate Derrick's ramp in the morning and then take it to his house and install it that afternoon.

Founded over 50 years ago, OrthoIndy is one of the most highly respected orthopedic practices in the Midwest. With over 70 physicians providing care to central Indiana residents from more than 10 convenient locations, OrthoIndy provides leading-edge bone, joint, spine and muscle care. OrthoIndy physicians also provide care to the Indiana Pacers, Indiana Fever, Indianapolis Indians, Dance Kaleidoscope and Naptown Roller Girls, as well as local colleges and high schools.

"Partnering with Saws has been a great opportunity for everyone at our company," said Jane Keller, CEO of OrthoIndy. "It gives our employees the chance to get out in the community, volunteer and help those in need."

Jim Hamilton, SAWs' Marion County Area Coordinator, who has worked with a multitude of companies, churches, and civic organizations said, "This crew was energetic, eager to learn, and tireless in finishing the task with the highest quality result."

Derrick is now back in his home and is able to move around the neighbor-

hood, talk with his friends, and participate in his community.

(The OrthoIndy Foundation has underwritten the lease for our new building.)



Founder's View

Step Into the Jordan



Fear is a funny thing. We have all experienced it to one degree or another. We each react differently. The effect on us is different depending on the perceived threat. When I served in Viet Nam I wasn't wandering around in rice paddies trying to kill anyone but for a year I lived with the idea that there were people that wanted me gone...one way or the other.

I experienced a different kind of fear when we decided to build ramps for people with disabilities. That fear recurred almost every Friday night before each Saturday project. Another fear began to grip me when we found ourselves getting double and triple the number of requests over the previous season. Yet another fear gripped me when I realized that I could no longer manage the ministry "by myself." Jesus said, "Fear not for I am with you even until the end of the age." But I can never seem to remember that when in the grip of these fears.

Now SAWs is faced with another "scary" prospect. We recently entered into a dynamic and exciting partnership with the Fuller Center for Housing (TFCH). This partnership will take the SAWs ministry beyond the safe confines of Indiana. But this time, I am not afraid!

We have a wonderful partner in TFCH. We have a group of volunteers that astound me on a daily basis with their drive, commitment, ingenuity and their complete belief in the SAWs mission. We have some great new sponsors who also believe in the mission and we have four new Directors on the Board with more wonderful ideas that I ever thought possible.

The simple need to be able to get in and out of your home is something that hundreds of thousands of Americans face every day. Census statistics tell us that millions of people face physical impediments nationwide and we want to change that. It is a huge task. As endeavors go, it is the Mt. Everest of goals. However, we are up to the task and we continue to be supported in this effort by our Board of Directors, volunteers, sponsors and our God.

Are we just a little intimidated by the enormity of the venture? Perhaps. Are we afraid of it? Not at all. "Step into the Jordan," God said to Joshua, "and I will part the waters." We are stepping in and we are confident that the waters will part and we will accomplish our undertaking.

Rik

Around Indiana



A crew from the Logansport Juvenile Corrections facility, along with their Indiana Department Of Corrections supervisor built a SAWs ramp for a 58-year-old man with COPD, Parkinson's and CHF. Seeing the impact building a SAWs for those in need can have a transformational impact on the lives of young offenders.



Volunteers from our partner BraunAbility built a ramp for a retired EMT/fireman who was injured due to the heavy lifting on the job. Great support for one of our first responders.



The new Boone County Construction Group completed a ramp for a client who is dependent on her chair and her mother. A SAWs ramp can benefit many more than the recipient alone.



Every Journey Begins With a Single Step...

...Unless It's This One.

And people in need are waiting for you. The Community Census found that approximately 6% of the population of Indiana have personal accessibility needs. That's 392,200 people, many of whom are wheelchair bound and trapped by the steps at the door. **SAWs** has built hundreds of ramps across Indiana but we haven't even scratched the surface. Help us free those trapped in the prisons of their own homes. The work is easy and so rewarding.

Go to our website
www.SawsRamps.org
to volunteer.

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**Building
Freedom
One Ramp
at a Time**

SAWs
Servants at Work, Inc.
Building Community • Transforming Lives • Accessing the World

"... You will free the captives from prison, releasing those who sit in dark dungeons."
Isaiah 42:6