

Vedia Medina

Melissa Knipp

HLA 7

24 October 2022

## Philanthropist Essay

People do good things all the time. You might open a door for someone, compliment them, or simply smile at them. The philanthropist I have chosen to recognize is my grandfather, George Patton Frame, or Pat. I chose him because not only does he always do these little things to brighten someone's day, he also invests his time and energy into helping those in need.

My grandfather did this work through SAWs, or Servants At Work, a non-profit organization with branches in several states and towns, including our local branch in Greencastle. SAWs is devoted to providing a way for people in wheelchairs to get in and out of their homes with ease. Volunteers under SAWs build ramps at peoples' homes that follow the width, height, and incline regulations and allow users to get in and out of their homes smoothly. For a while, my grandfather was one of those volunteers.

Grandpa became a volunteer through his church: First Christian Church in Martinsville, IN. Recently, SAWs has been growing in numbers and branching out into more and more communities. Since my grandfather was volunteering, SAWs has begun its work in Greencastle through Greencastle Presbyterian Church and is currently in its 13th year of constructing ramps. Without the help of SAWs, many disabled Greencastle residents are unable to independently get

in or out of their homes to go to doctor appointments or the grocery store due to actually being trapped in their homes.

Apart from helping those that need a ramp, SAWs offers an amazing opportunity to get to know the people in the community and also provides a meaningful personal experience. As I talked to my grandfather about his time working at SAWs, he said, “We were on jobs where people would go halfway down [the unfinished ramp] and say, ‘that’s the first time I’ve heard the birds in two years’ or ‘that’s the first time I’ve felt the breeze on my face in two years.’”

After hearing this, I was inspired. I had never thought about how people could be trapped in their homes if they were in a wheelchair. If my grandfather was doing that for people, why can’t I? Since then, I resolved to join SAWs the first chance I got; I want that fulfillment for myself and others, and I want to make a difference. My Grandpa is the best example there is: we do not need to be wealthy or powerful to make a difference in the world. Care, hard work, and kindness are ten times more important than any amount of money or status. Like my Grandpa said, “If you are lucky enough, you will get to help someone like that before you die. It’s really special.”