

ISSUE #1 ■ 2016

NEWSLETTER OF RAUCH, INC.

Behind *the* Seen

Announcing the 2016 Imagine Awards Honorees

Individual Honoree: David DeSanctis

Born with Down syndrome, 23-year-old David DeSanctis is very bright, communicative, and aware of his disability. A Ballard High School graduate and a graduate of the University of Louisville/Jefferson County Public Schools Providing Access to Community Transition (P.A.C.T.) program, David currently attends classes at Jefferson Community and Technical College and is active with Down Syndrome of Louisville, Angels in Disguise, and Best Buddies.

David had the opportunity of a lifetime to generate awareness and understanding when he was cast as "Produce," a lead role in the movie *Where Hope Grows*. Released in 2014, the film focuses on what it means to belong. Produce and the other leading character, Calvin, develop a friendship that gives Calvin's life new meaning and purpose. Through the long hours on the set, David learned a lot while teaching those around him about tolerance, friendship, and acceptance.

David became interested in acting and broadcast journalism in high school. When

the producer of *Where Hope Grows* came to Louisville, several people suggested he meet David. David did the rest, competing against well-established and experienced actors, landing the role thanks to his hard work and passion. He learned lines quickly and adjusted to grueling hours, and it all paid off. When you watch the movie, David isn't David – he's Produce. He brought the character to life in a way that only he could have. David has approached post-production and marketing responsibilities with the same work ethic and passion, using his opportunity of a lifetime to help others.

Since the movie release, David has traveled extensively to speak to groups and fans about his experience with the movie as well as bigger topics like friendship, achievement, and acceptance.

What started out as a personal dream for David has turned into something much bigger as he continues to help create communities where everyone is appreciated.



Continued on inside cover.



DID YOU KNOW?

The Imagine Awards are held in March to kick off National and ACCESS programs have visited area 4th grade classes

Leader Honoree: Lucy VonRoenn



Lucy VonRoenn founded Sunrise Therapeutic Riding Center in 2005, incorporating the not-for-profit organization in 2006 and opening its Lanesville operation in 2007. Ms. VonRoenn is a registered instructor certified by Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship (PATH) International.

Under Lucy's leadership, Sunrise provides treatment techniques to help with balance, muscle tone, posture, core strength, mobility, coordination, confidence building, and sensory registration for individuals with mental or physical disabilities. Riders from 3 to 70 years old benefit from these services, with a lesson plan for each student created specifically for his or her needs and goals. The conditions experienced by individuals served include stroke, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, autism, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, post traumatic stress disorder, multiple sclerosis, and more.

Hannah Melton has cerebral palsy, and her parents have noticed a marked improvement since she began therapy in Lucy's program. In her parents' words, "None of this would be possible if not for Ms. Lucy. She is an amazing woman with a heart of gold. She always has a smile and a lesson planned just for Hannah." Hannah is just one example of many. Lucy is making real and significant changes in the lives of those she serves.

In addition to her work at Sunrise, Lucy is an active community volunteer, having been involved with Habitat for Humanity, the Humane Society, Kentucky Derby Festival, Special Olympics, The Luci Center, Junior League of Louisville, Farmington, and more.



The 2016 Imagine Awards will feature songstress **Rion Paige**, finalist on *The X-Factor* season 3. As a contestant on the show, the 13-year-old bounced (quite literally) into millions of homes—ultimately blowing away the judges with her cover of Carrie Underwood's "Blown Away." While mesmerizing the crowd and judges, Paige's life-long disability, arthrogryposis multiplex congenital a rare disorder that causes a curving of the joints, was merely an afterthought.

Tickets and sponsorships are still available! Visit imagineawards.org or contact Teresa at 812-981-4410 or tjackson@rauchinc.org for more information.

Business Honoree: Tasman Natural Pet

Tasman Natural Pet is a division of Tasman Industries, a Louisville-based family owned company founded by Goodman Tasman in 1947. Tasman Natural Pet was launched in 2010 to produce and market high-quality rawhide chews for dogs. One of the first hurdles in launching the company was to locate a packaging solution. Tasman began working with Rauch Industries, a subsidiary of Rauch, Inc., who provided the services needed to help the company become one of the fastest growing premium brands in the pet products industry.



However, working with Rauch Industries isn't just a business solution for the company. Tasman Natural Pet is proud to partner with Rauch and fully believes in the agency's work to provide opportunities to persons with and without disabilities. The services Rauch provides would otherwise have been completed overseas or through pre-made packaging and have been crucial to Tasman's growth in the packaged consumer goods marketplace. Tasman has grown 500% since its founding and continues to work with Rauch for packaging, even when most of the products could now be packaged at their manufacturing facility.

In addition to their support of the employment and training of individuals with disabilities, Tasman Natural Pet and parent company Tasman Industries actively employ displaced and/or disadvantaged persons at all levels of employment, often with no English speaking requirements. The company's human resources division works with local refugee centers such as Kentucky Refugee Ministries and Catholic Charities, resulting in their hiring of the entire warehouse management and fulfillment staff. Tasman works to provide hope and a hand up, not a hand out.



Disability Awareness Month. For over 20 years, Rauch's ADA providing disability awareness and fun, educational activities.

Help make the 2016 Imagine Awards auction a success!

The silent and live auction at the 2015 Imagine Awards raised over \$16,000.

Help us generate even more vital funding to support Rauch's programs and services by **donating an item or gift certificate**. It is a great way to promote your business while benefiting others. Popular items include: unique items and experiences (dinners/tastings, plane rides, etc.), memorabilia, wine/liquor, pet supplies, jewelry, and art. A donation package is available at rauchinc.org/imagine. For more information, contact Lindsey at 812-981-4411 or ldavis@rauchinc.org. **Items are needed by February 19, 2016.**



Thank you to our 2016 Imagine Awards Judges!

Darian Eswine: Intern, Franklin College

Barbara Geltmaker: Retired, Horizon Wealth

Steve Naville: Lorch Naville Ward

Scott Peyton: First Insurance Group

Jill Smith: The Arc of Indiana

Laura Wilkins: NAFC Public Library

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A Legacy and Support System that Lives on...

Ballroom dancing, taking piano lessons, riding bicycles, and traveling are all interests that Julie and Tim Naville share. However, the Providence High School sweethearts whose young love grew into a happily married life with three children share another unique long-time correlation.

Julie, the Director of Physical and Occupational Therapy at Baptist Health Louisville, first explored her occupational therapy career path as a college student when she volunteered with Rauch's early intervention program. Rauch has been in Tim's consciousness nearly his entire life due to his late father Herb's involvement with the agency and his sister's ongoing status as a Rauch program participant.

After attending the Naval Academy and a career as a Nuclear Service Warfare Officer, Tim returned home to New Albany with a position at the planned Marble Hill Power Plant in Southern Indiana. When that project was abandoned, Tim pursued "Plan B," attending law school at the University of Louisville on the GI Bill and following in Herb's footsteps by joining Lorch and Naville law firm (now Lorch Naville Ward).

Tim went on to echo Herb's path in another respect – serving on the Rauch, Inc. and Rauch Foundation Boards of Directors for thirteen years. Through the years, Julie and Tim have been faithful donors to Rauch, and decided they wanted to continue that support past their lifetime through a donation to the Rauch Foundation that they have arranged through their life insurance policy.

In professional circles, Julie finds that many of her Louisville colleagues are amazed that one organization meets so many varied needs. She refers to the agency as a "one stop shop," providing a range of support for different ages and skill levels of individuals. Julie feels that this breadth of work also demonstrates the agency's stewardship of the donor dollars with which it is entrusted – "If you look at all that Rauch

does, it's easy to see where your money goes."

Tim's faith in Rauch is rooted in history as well as its continued forward-thinking approach. He says that "Rauch's longevity and programs speak for themselves. I like what Rauch has done for the community and I believe that Rauch will continue those good works and manage our investment well – including adapting to its clients' needs and undertaking new approaches."



Julie and Tim; their children Sarah, Steve, and Anne; and their two grandchildren all reside in Southern Indiana. The hometown connection means a lot to Julie, who says that "Rauch truly is an organization that exists to serve the local community. There is integrity there."

Gifts to the Rauch Foundation like the one arranged by the Naville family are invested for Rauch's future. Those investment earnings provide important income that Rauch uses to meet the needs of the people with disabilities they serve. Join the group of caring individuals who have left donations to Rauch in their will or estate plans – visit rauchinc.org/giftplanning or call 812-981-4410 to learn more about long-term giving options through Rauch's **IMAGINE Giving Community**.

The Rauch Foundation: Your investment in our long-term future

Proceeds from the Imagine Awards benefit the Rauch Foundation, which was created in 1997 through a donation from the Rasmussen estate. The Foundation's assets are invested for the long-term, helping Rauch, Inc. weather changes in policy, funding, and client needs over the years. To help Rauch be prepared for whatever the future brings, we rely on partners like you to contribute to the Rauch Foundation, either now or in your estate plan. Donors with planned gifts are recognized as members of Rauch's **IMAGINE Giving Community**. A variety of giving options are available to meet your needs; please contact Teresa Jackson, Director of Development, at tjackson@rauchinc.org or 812-981-4410.



...and Creates Long-Term Results

For Jason Evans, goal-orientation was not at the top of his priority list. He was focused on the bigger picture and what he wanted to achieve. “For instance, I wanted to go to IUS so they said ‘ok let’s focus on these goals first,’” he said. “They (Rauch) taught me how to prioritize and focus on individual goals.”

Jason worked at Rauch Industries for two years in the late 1980s, and says, “Rauch gave me more confidence in myself and a work ethic.”

Jason uses this work ethic as a Global Messenger for the Special Olympics. This role involves Jason speaking around the country and state, although he said he’s terrified of speaking in public. “I was so afraid, but that’s why I wanted to do it,” he said. “If I can help one person and answer their questions and help them and help get the message out about people with disabilities, then it’s worth it.”

Jason has been involved with Special Olympics since 1980 and it was the first place he felt he could be himself. “I had previously been diagnosed with depression and then a learning disability—they didn’t really know what it was,” he said. “I didn’t realize until then (Special Olympics), ‘Hey, these people are like me.’”

Jason said his personal hero is Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of Special Olympics. He said he admires her for how much she cared about people with disabilities. “We were already here, but she showed us to the world and the world had to pay attention to us,” he said.

In addition to his position with the Special Olympics, Jason also worked for a company that built haunted houses across the country for 19 years. Jason was required to build in them, act in them, and run them.

Currently, Jason is the Shift Manager at Pizza Hut. He said his responsibilities include making dough, managing personnel, customer service, answering phones, and doing whatever needs to be done. “There are a lot of different sides, but I like it,” he said. “I love the organization and management.” Jason has been at Pizza Hut for 18 years, and received the job a bit unconventionally. He had gone in for a personal pan pizza and the woman working leaned over the counter and asked if he wanted a job. He started the next day. “It kind of dropped in my lap, but it’s been a good thing for me,” he said.

Jason said Rauch provided him with many skills he needed to have the job and life he has now, but he said one of the most important things Rauch gave him was a support system. “They kept me on task a lot. If I had an episode or behavior, my friends would calm me down immediately,” he said. “It’s that Rauch support system.”

This support system is what he misses the most about Rauch. Jason said the moment he became extremely attached was the moment he decided to leave Rauch. “When I couldn’t imagine leaving here, that’s when I knew I needed to leave,” he said. “I knew I’d become stagnant if I stayed.”

He said he has many goals for the future and that every day he learns about something new he wants to do. One goal is speaking at the World Games, while another is going back to school.

Jason said some customers at Pizza Hut have come to find out he worked at Rauch and ask “How could you be a client and now a manager at a restaurant?” Jason says he simply replies, “Why not?”

“One thing I’ve learned in the real world—(there are) a lot of things you can learn, a lot more than even I thought I could do,” he said. “You don’t have to just sit here and not believe in yourself.”

Jason remains friends with many of the people he worked with at Rauch and enjoys coming back to visit. “I still consider myself a client and always will because of everything they’ve done for me,” he said. “They’ve had a big impact on me.”

Donations to Rauch have always been a long-term investment, as demonstrated in Jason’s story. The services and support system that donor dollars have helped Rauch provide for over 60 years pay long-term dividends for those who receive them, their families, and our community. Now, we ask you to consider making a formal commitment of your future support of Rauch. Join the people who are part of our **IMAGINE Giving Community** through a gift to Rauch in your will or other estate plans. Visit rauchinc.org/giftplanning or call 812-981-4410 to learn more about long-term giving options.



CONTRIBUTIONS: December 11, 2015 - January 25, 2016

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Wish List

Items in bold type are most urgently needed. View online at rauchinc.org/wishlist.

- **Admission to zoo, bowling, local museums, ball games, etc. for client outings**
- **Flash Cards (with items such as clothing, animals, food)**
- **Microwaves (to heat client lunches)**
- New or gently used wheelchairs.
- Paper dining products (plates, napkins, cups, utensils)
- Teaching aids
- Art Supplies (paint brushes, paints, etc.)
- Low impact exercise DVDs
- Simple Board Games
- Food items for cooking projects
- Refrigerators in good working order (4 needed)
- Four-drawer locking file cabinets

Our Gold Leaf Volunteer: Jim Stein

Rauch was thrilled to recognize the contributions of Jim Stein at the Rotary Club of Jeffersonville's Gold Leaf Volunteer luncheon in January 2016. Jim has volunteered with Rauch in many capacities since 2003. From beneficiary services coordination to paragliding for the clients to see, Jim has made a great impact on those served. In addition to providing consulting, an extra pair of eyes for looking over client accounts, and filling in for the beneficiary services position full time, Jim (and his dog) also help a former Rauch client and friend, Shirley, with weekly appointments. Jim says, "Regarding the question I often get, 'Why Rauch?' - the mission is important, the programs work, the community benefits." We say, "Thank you, Jim - you're awesome!"



Jim Stein & Rauch CEO Bettye Dunham



Rauch Staff, Board President Jay Conner, Jim & Gail Stein

Christmas Party Fun

The Rauch Industries Christmas party was another success. Thank you to everyone who helped create these big smiles by donating gifts for the people we serve. Santa didn't have to purchase a single present! If you want to see more of the great time had by all, you can find more photos on our Facebook page at facebook.com/rauchinc.





Rauch's Mission

To support people with disabilities and their families while encouraging a community that acknowledges the value and contribution of all people.

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Turning Another House into a Home

On January 30th, Jeff, Larry, and Michael woke up and got ready for the day for the very first time in their new home. They just became the newest residents of Rauch's Hawthorn Glen Supported Living housing community. Jeff is extremely excited to start working at Rauch Industries in a few weeks. Larry is retired and is looking forward to relaxing, setting up his trains, and watching western movies (he even decorated his bathroom in a western theme). It means a lot to him that he has moved into a house that no one has lived in before. Michael stays busy with his job at McDonalds and attending another day program. All three are excited and looking forward to getting to know their neighbors—who welcomed them with muffins on move-in day!



When posing for their group picture, Larry (center) told the guys to get on either side of him and give him a hug!

WE'RE HIRING! If you would like the opportunity to work with some amazing individuals and make a difference in their lives and the community, visit rauchinc.org/careers.



Jeff with his huge family in his new bedroom



Larry with his sister



Michael (right) with his staff Darrick

Visit www.rauchinc.org for upcoming events or to sign up to receive E-MAGINE, our monthly e-newsletter.