Since 2002, the Tony Hawk Foundation has been fulfilling its mission to help young people by issuing grants to low-income communities building quality public skateparks, and providing guidance to city officials, parents, and children through the process.

Why Skateparks?

Tony Hawk helps one of the fastest-growing and most underserved youth groups.

In his adolescent years, Tony Hawk considered the local skatepark his home away from home and skateboarding the sport that delivered him into a tight community, shaping his character and teaching him lessons in leadership, perseverance, and taking initiative.

Today, Tony’s two greatest passions are children and skateboarding. In recent years skateboarding has grown to include about 12-million participants, yet only about 2,000 skateparks are available for them to ride. Most skaters ride wherever they can—in the streets, in parking lots, and just about anywhere they aren’t chased from. Community groups and civic leaders have identified skateparks as an answer to the lack of suitable places to ride. But most city officials have no idea how to properly develop a skatepark, or even where to start.

After receiving thousands of e-mails from parents and children across America who either did not have a safe, legal place to skate or were ostracized from their community—and in some cases arrested—for skating on public property, Tony decided to establish a foundation whose mission would be to serve this population. He wanted to help them develop quality places to practice the sport that gives them much-needed exercise and a sense of self-esteem. So in 2002 he established the Tony Hawk Foundation, financed the organization with a personal gift, and assembled a Board of Directors that represents a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise.

Since its inception, the Tony Hawk Foundation has sought to foster lasting improvements in society, with an emphasis on serving underprivileged children. Through grants and other charitable donations, the Foundation supports programs focused on the creation of public skateboard parks. The foundation favors projects that have strong community involvement, grassroots fundraising, and a base of support from the skaters, parents, law enforcement, and local leaders.

Years ago, Tony identified the need for free, accessible, quality public skateparks. Fortunately, hundreds of municipalities have recently come to embrace the recreational—and societal—benefits of skateboard parks. With the popularity of
skateboarding fueling the rush to build them, the need for help from the Tony Hawk Foundation has become more urgent and critical. Most cities in the process of building a public skatepark are working on their first, and for them there is no precedent, no blueprint. Once the cement is poured and formed, there is no changing it. All the right questions must be addressed before that step. The Tony Hawk Foundation was established to help cities develop that checklist and ensure that the hard work of skaters, parents, and city officials will result in a quality skatepark that will serve that community for years to come.

For all the petitioning, fundraising, planning, and designing that these individuals commit themselves to, they deserve a park that reflects their efforts—one that kids will actually use and enjoy. Far too many communities produce unskateable parks whose flaws contribute to collisions and injuries. If skaters can’t enjoy their skatepark, they simply won’t use it. The Tony Hawk Foundation offers information and guidance to avoid the most common design and construction mistakes—mistakes that cost communities thousands of dollars and countless hours of wasted effort. Tony Hawk Foundation staff answers questions, offers feedback, and provides information on useful resources to help individuals and community groups achieve the best skatepark possible.

Since 2002 the Tony Hawk Foundation has been fulfilling its mission to help young people by issuing grants to low-income communities building quality public skateparks, and providing guidance to city officials, parents, and children through the process. In the past three years the Foundation has awarded over $1.1-million to 271 public skatepark projects across the United States. An additional $80,000 in ramp equipment was also donated through the Foundation’s Ramp Partnership program.

To date, 180 Tony Hawk Foundation grant recipients have opened their skateparks and are currently serving an estimated 1.5-million children annually. With the remaining 101 grant recipients scheduled to open their parks in the next twelve months, an estimated 2.5-million youth annually will be actively using facilities that received financial aid and development guidance from the Tony Hawk Foundation.

The Tony Hawk Foundation supports disadvantaged communities and at-risk children. We are the only national grant-writing organization focused solely on the development and financing of free, quality public skateparks. We know that skateparks provide a safe and inspiring avenue for skaters to practice and excel at their sport, and that the process of developing their local skatepark encourages and teaches young people about how to make positive changes within their own communities.

The Tony Hawk Foundation has been working with municipalities and community groups to help them realize their dream of a quality public skatepark in their community. For Tony Hawk, skateboarding was a healthy outlet and a recreational challenge, and it provided a social group of creative, like-minded individuals. It was also a sport that helped him build confidence, taught him to persevere, and through his mentoring of younger skaters helped him develop leadership skills. The Tony Hawk Foundation works every day to be able to bring these same lessons to youth across the country.
Mission Statement
The Tony Hawk Foundation seeks to foster lasting improvements in society, with an emphasis on supporting and empowering youth. Through special events, grants, and technical assistance, the Foundation supports recreational programs with a focus on the creation of public skateboard parks in low-income communities. The Foundation favors programs that clearly demonstrate that funds received will produce tangible, ongoing positive results.

Programs
The primary focus of the Tony Hawk Foundation is to help facilitate the development of free, high-quality public skateparks in low-income areas by providing information and guidance on the skatepark-development process, and through financial grants. While not all skatepark projects meet our grant criteria, the Tony Hawk Foundation strives to help communities in other ways to achieve the best possible skateparks—parks that will satisfy the needs of local skaters and provide them a safe, enjoyable place to ride.

“Thank you for your involvement, as the Tony Hawk Foundation name gave our project credibility at an important stage in its development.” —Mark Jacobs, Ogdensburg, New York

Below are some of the programs and services administered by the Tony Hawk Foundation.

Grants
The Tony Hawk Foundation Board of Directors reviews grant applications twice a year and issues grants based on merit and available funds. We give preference to grassroots projects in disadvantaged communities where children have limited recreational opportunities or access to existing skateparks. We also favor projects that demonstrate strong skater involvement.

Tony Hawk Foundation grants range from $1,000 to $25,000. In 2005 we reviewed 216 applications and awarded 30 grants totaling over $210,000. As we continue to expand our fundraising avenues and resources, we hope to increase our grant awards in 2006.

How To Get A Skatepark Built In Your Hometown
This guide, available on our Web site, takes you through the four main stages of getting a skatepark built. It shows you how to organize a skatepark committee, rally community and government support, raise money, and design your skatepark. Visit www.tonyhawkfoundation.org to view or download the guide.

E-mail
The Tony Hawk Foundation fields an average of 300 e-mails a month, and staff takes the time to answer them individually. The following are some typical issues we address: getting a skatepark project started, lobbying local government, liability insurance, raising community awareness, creating a nonprofit organization, fundraising, applying for a grant, choosing a skatepark designer and/or contractor, developing rules for the skatepark, skatepark maintenance, and holding skateboarding events. Foundation staff can be reached by e-mail at contact@tonyhawkfoundation.org.

Fundraising Items
Thanks to Tony and our generous in-kind sponsors, we are able to donate various skate-related goods to projects we are unable to fund via grants. These products are used as raffle or auction items to generate funds for skatepark projects.

Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarship
For the past two years, the Tony Hawk Foundation has sponsored a 1,000-dollar scholarship through the Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarship program. The program is the first college scholarship fund in the United States for skateboarders. It is named in memory of Patrick Kerr, an honor student and skateboard activist, and was started by a group of mothers whose mission is to help skateboarders pursue their dreams and achieve their career goals. For more information about the Patrick Kerr Skateboard Scholarship program, including information on how to apply for a scholarship, log on to www.skateboardscholarship.org. The Tony Hawk Foundation is proud to help support skaters pursuing academic excellence.
Letter From The Founder

It’s 2005 and there are more skateparks than ever, but our job at THF is far from finished; too many communities are in dire need of facilities that offer their youth a positive, creative outlet. The good news is that skateparks are getting better, and city officials are recognizing the healthy benefits of providing them. Some parks are so good that they’re becoming travel destinations for cities that otherwise see very little tourism. I have been lucky enough to skate some of these parks over the last year, and I have received nothing but positive feedback from the locals. I get so caught up in the sheer enjoyment of riding the parks that I sometimes forget that our Foundation played a role in their development. That is, until an enthusiastic skater stops me and says, “Thanks for helping with our park.” The pleasure is all mine—and our staff’s.

So far we’ve tried to make a million dollars go a long way. In nearly four years, we’ve given 271 grants to parks around the country, totaling $1,161,334 in donations. Of those projects, 180 are already open and serving over 1.5-million skaters a year—75% of whom are under the age of 18.

In most cases, skateparks are used more than any other public sporting facilities, with kids skating from dawn to dusk (and beyond). City officials can’t ignore the excitement that the parks produce, and often decide to build additional skateparks in other parts of town. We want to help continue this trend and see more great skateparks where they’re needed the most.

Fundraising is still a challenge, but our annual Stand Up For Skateparks benefit gives us a boost in the right direction. This year’s event was another success, with plenty of celebrities, activities, and entertainment. The vert demo featured an A-list of talent: Bob Burnquist, Bucky Lasek, Kevin Staab, and yours truly. We wowed the crowd with our “U-pipe” antics. The main stage was never dull, as Paul Rodriguez Sr. did stand-up comedy, Lupe Fiasco performed his now-famous track “Kick, Push,” and Pennywise ended the show in typical energy-filled punk-rock fashion. Guests were also likely to bump into the likes of David Spade, Lisa Kudrow, Marlee Matlin, Jacob Dylan, Chuck Liddell, Blair Underwood, Anthony Kiedis, Flea, or Leezza Gibbons while roaming the crowd. Even though this was only our second benefit event, we still managed to raise over $700,000, and plans are in the works for an even bigger and better Stand Up For Skateparks on November 5, 2006.

Skateparks are on the rise, but we need to make sure they’re being built—and built properly—in the communities that need them the most. Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the last few years. It’s working! Now let’s keep at it.

Tony lifts a frontside air over the Montclair, California skatepark.
Letter From The Executive Director

I remember the day, sometime in 1980, when I was pushing my new skateboard up and down the driveway and realized that I had stumbled onto something really special. I hadn’t accomplished some amazing feat on my board. I wasn’t even “trick” skating—just pushing along the driveway. But I distinctly recall the moment I realized that I wasn’t just passing time on my skateboard. I was tapping into something that truly spoke to me.

I had found that elusive goal of every adolescent—I had discovered an identity. That was the moment when I found myself transformed from a kid who rode a skateboard to a skateboarder. I was hooked.

By the end of the 1970s, skateboarding was past its peak—a fad that had run its course. Mainstream culture had assimilated and ultimately rejected it, relegating skateboarding to the dustbin of history. Few continued to skate after the bubble burst, and fewer still actually began skating at that time. To be a skater in the early 1980s wasn’t so unique as it was weird, in the most derogatory sense of the word.

But like most twelve-year-olds, I was lost in transition, not quite a teenager yet, and uncertain of where I fit in (assuming I did at all). As it turned out, I didn’t. Most kids my age were creating alliances to help each other cope with adolescent insecurity—they joined sports teams and practiced together, competed together, and won together (or lost, but did so together in any case). I had a few skate buddies, but there were no contests to enter and no leagues to organize us. So we made our own fun. We had to.

Skateboarding is an individualist activity—part sport, part art, part meditation. Skateboarding speaks to individuals who aren’t naturally drawn to team sports—for whatever reason—and who prefer to pursue their craft on their own terms and to their own abilities. No one can say what is the right way to skate, or even which foot to put on the board first. It’s all up to you. When I was younger, I guess my peers weren’t used to that much freedom. It was easier if the coach called the play.

I was younger, I guess my peers weren’t used to that much freedom. It was easier if the coach called the play.

Much has changed in the last 25 years. Skateboarding has evolved and grown, and it’s not so weird to be a skater anymore. Droves of kids are rolling around their driveways and realizing just how amazing skateboarding is. They’re leaving their balls, mitts, and cleats in the closet and pushing in a new direction. And if you don’t believe me, just look at the numbers.

According to the National Sporting Goods Association (makers of balls, mitts, and cleats), from 1994 to 2004 participation of twelve- to seventeen-year-olds in baseball dropped over four percent. During the same period, that group’s participation in basketball dropped almost ten percent, an additional one percent took up soccer, and among twelve to seventeen-year-olds skateboarding participation grew 112 percent*.

One-hundred-twelve percent.

When Tony Hawk established his foundation in 2002, municipalities across the U.S. were already scrambling to address the need for safe, quality places to skate. But not all were. Despite the fact that the 12-million skateboarders’ now roaming the streets outnumber participants in some traditional sports, in most cities multiple publicly funded facilities exist for those sports while skateboarders have none. It’s no wonder that street skating is the most popular style of skateboarding. In most communities across the country, there’s simply nowhere else to go.

With over 180 of the 271 skateparks the Foundation helped fund since 2002 now open and serving over 1.5-million skaters annually, local leaders are beginning to acknowledge and address the needs of their growing skate populations. But many still disregard the fact that skateboarding is the recreation of choice for the current generation. They continue to focus on and fund team-sports programs while ignoring the paradigm shift that’s taken place. As skateboarding continues to thrive and skaters pack the sidewalks, parking lots, and plazas of America’s skateparkless cities, the Tony Hawk Foundation educates and assists local leaders who’ve yet to realize that their communities are changing before their very eyes.

Today, cities that don’t have at least one public skatepark seem ... well, weird. Inevitably, in those same communities, you’ll see kids on skateboards pushing up and down the streets looking for a place to play. They’ve made their choice, they’ve become skateboarders. It’s now up to their communities to acknowledge that.

Miki Vuckovich
Executive Director

Despite the fact that the 12-million skateboarders now roaming the streets outnumber participants in some traditional sports, in most cities multiple publicly funded facilities exist for those sports while skateboarders have none.

* National Sporting Goods Association (www.nsga.org)
Community Building

The skatepark process teaches youth lifelong lessons.

At first glance, the goal of the Tony Hawk Foundation is almost mundane: to help promote and finance public skateparks in low-income areas across the United States. But the Foundation’s true mission goes beyond simply making sure skateboarders across the country have a curvy place to play. We’ve discovered that the benefits derived from the process of getting a skatepark built, while not as tangible or quantifiable, are often more valuable than the product itself. If it’s done right, a skatepark project can teach young people a lifelong lesson in the power of perseverance, and remind adults that kids with funny haircuts and pierced lips can not only be good people, but can also get things done.

Although skateboarding has received much mainstream credibility in recent years, thousands of communities have yet to provide skaters with a place to legally practice their sport of choice. As a result, many adults still regard skaters as disrespectful troublemakers. Business owners chase them away. City officials pass ordinances to impede them. Police give them tickets. Shrouded in stigma and with few resources to overcome it, many skaters still grow up feeling disenfranchised, and the institutionalized image of skaters as delinquents becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Leadership

In a growing number of communities, however, skateparks have proven to be the perfect hammer to break this ugly cycle. At its best, it works like this: a skater gets in trouble for skating where he’s not supposed to (maybe he gets a ticket, maybe a call home from the school principal) and complains to his parents that he has no place to skate. His parents persuade him to write a letter to City Hall, or to attend a city-council meeting. The skater gets some friends together, puts on his cleanest shirt, sits through a boring meeting, and then makes a nervous but respectful plea for a skatepark. City officials, impressed by the courteous request, agree that it’s a good idea and commit to including a skatepark in the next parks-and-recreation budget and designate a central location for the project.

Power Of Perseverance

A real-world scenario is more likely to include city-donated land, but require the skaters to find the money to build the park. With the help of one or two city officials and a handful of parents, the kids form a committee and spend the next year or two raising money and community awareness. They hold car washes, barbecues, raffles, and skate-a-thons. They do yard work for their neighbors and donate the wages to the skatepark fund. Eventually, the community rallies behind the determined youth brigade. The police chief writes an editorial in the local newspaper praising the kids for their efforts. The local Lion’s Club holds a pancake breakfast, and the paper runs a photo of some beribboned World War II vet flipping flapjacks for skaters.

Changing Attitudes

This is when attitudes change. The kids realize that the adults really want to help them, and the adults realize that the kids are willing to work hard for this thing they love. Most important, the kids learn that they can actually accomplish something by working with the system rather than beating their heads against it, or sitting at home complaining about it. They learn how to communicate in a way that will encourage adults to listen, and they go from feeling alienated to empowered.

Spirit Of Youth

We don’t want to sound too sappy, but we are convinced that when teenagers, parents, police, politicians, business leaders, and civic groups all get together and push the same wheel, and that wheel actually turns, the effort alone makes the world a better place.

That is the kind of skatepark project that the Tony Hawk Foundation seeks to fund.
Success Story

Needles, California — Awarded $25,000

This project was spearheaded by eighth graders who lobbied the city after spending a year investigating design, safety issues, insurance and liability problems, and fundraising possibilities. The determination of these youngsters got the city’s attention, and for the first time in a long while the needs of the local kids became the focus.

In all, they spent three years raising money, and when they still came up short of their $200,000 goal, the city stepped up again, donating more money to the project so that the original design would not have to be scaled back. On January 3, 2004, Needles opened its 12,000-square-foot concrete park designed by Wally Hollyday. “The kids in Needles really needed a skatepark,” committee leader Rebecca Valentine commented. “We worked hard to get it and they [the kids] learned to never give up on what you want.”

The skatepark has been heavily used, and even the local sheriff is pleased with how well things are going now that it’s open. Possibly even greater than the skatepark is the new Youth Advisory Board that has been established from this process. The kids now have a permanent voice in the community, and the skatepark is just the first of many good things to come.

“The kids in Needles really needed a skatepark. We worked hard to get it and they [the kids] learned to never give up on what you want.”

— Rebecca Valentine, Needles, California
2005 Grant Recipients

Polson, Montana (Seventh Avenue Wheelpark Association) $25,000
Wheeling, West Virginia (Wheeling Skatepark Committee) $25,000
Cusick, Washington (Town of Cusick) $20,000
Missoula, Montana (Missoula Skatepark Association) $15,000
El Paso, Texas (Teens In Action) $10,000
Lewiston, Maine (Skate Lewiston Auburn Movement/Empower Lewiston) $10,000
Los Angeles, California (Watts Labor Community Action Committee) $10,000
Creston, Iowa (Town Of Olla) $10,000
Seattle, Washington (Sea Mar Community Health Center) $10,000
Stanley, Virginia (Page County Skatepark Committee) $10,000
Bath, New York (Village Of Bath) $6,334
Aitkin, Minnesota (City Of Aitkin) $5,000
Cordele, Georgia (Board Of Commissioners Of Crisp County) $5,000
Gallatin, Tennessee (Gallatin Skatepark, Inc.) $5,000
Independence, Kansas (City Of Independence) $5,000
John Day, Oregon (Friends Of The Skate Boarders/Grant Action Partners) $5,000
Liberty, New York (Liberty Community Development Corp.) $5,000
Owenton, Kentucky (Owen County Parks and Recreation) $5,000
Oxford, Maine (Oxford Hills School District) $5,000
Port Angeles, Washington (Rotary Nor’Wester Of Port Angeles) $5,000
Blairsville, Georgia (Union County Parks And Recreation Dept.) $1,000
Baudette, Minnesota (Baudette Community Foundation) $1,000
Corpus Christi, Texas (Junior League of Corpus Christi, Inc.) $1,000
Kettle Falls, Washington (City of Kettle Falls) $1,000
Cumberland, Maryland (City of Cumberland) $1,000
Douglas, Georgia (City Of Douglas Parks and Recreation Dept.) $1,000
Kettle Falls, Washington (City of Kettle Falls) $1,000
Loogootee, Indiana (Loogootee Park and Recreation Board) $1,000
Los Angeles, California (Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council) $1,000
Ogdensburg, New York (City of Ogdensburg) $1,000
Portland, Oregon (Skaters For Public Skateparks) $1,000
As public skateparks grow in popularity, so does the need for funding. In 2005, the Tony Hawk Foundation received a total of 216 applications from communities within 47 states. The THF Board of Directors awarded 30 grants to skatepark projects in 18 states, totaling $210,334.

To-date (2002–2005), THF has received grant applications from all 50 states and has given grants to projects in 45 of them, plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. Since 2002, THF has received over 1,033 applications and has awarded 271 grants worth $1,161,334.
Giving Opportunities

The Tony Hawk Foundation invites individuals, corporations, and other foundations to take advantage of a variety of ways to support its work. In addition to cash donations, individuals may make contributions through one or more of the following giving opportunities. As a public charity, contributions to the Tony Hawk Foundation are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Employer-Matching Contributions And Employee Giving Programs
Through your workplace, you may be eligible to make a gift to the Tony Hawk Foundation and have your employer match that amount at the same time! Double your contribution and your impact, inquire about matching gifts at your workplace. Ask your Human Resources Manager if your company offers a Matching Gifts Program or an Employee Giving Program. Your inquiry will help to spread the word about the important work of the Tony Hawk Foundation and may lead to your company’s support as well.

Tributes And Memorials
Make a meaningful gift to honor someone’s memory, recognize a friend’s accomplishment, or celebrate a relative’s birthday with a tribute or memorial donation to the Tony Hawk Foundation. Acknowledgement letters for tribute and memorial gifts are sent directly to the recipient, and you receive a letter for tax purposes for your donation.

In-Kind Donations
The Tony Hawk Foundation welcomes in-kind donations of goods and pro-bono services that will contribute to our overall fundraising efforts.

“This facility will be used by the youth of our community for years to come and will help improve the quality of life for our residents. A project of this scale would be hard to complete without the help of organizations such as yours.”
—Preston Skate Park Board, Preston, Iowa

To make a donation to the Tony Hawk Foundation, or to find out other ways you can support our work, please contact:

Kim Novick, (949) 715-9843
kim@tonyhawkfoundation.org

Donations should be made payable to Tony Hawk Foundation and sent to the following address:

Tony Hawk Foundation
1611-A S. Melrose Dr. #360
Vista, CA 92081

Your tax-deductible donation will be acknowledged by mail. For more information, visit our Web site at www.tonyhawkfoundation.org
Letter From The Development Director

I am delighted to report another successful year of growth for the Tony Hawk Foundation. In 2005 we saw an increase across the board in our fundraising efforts, the number of parks we’ve assisted opening, and communities receiving technical assistance to get their skatepark projects off the ground. Increased funds enabled the Tony Hawk Foundation to provide greater technical assistance to communities across the country, and fund an additional 30 skateparks, bringing our total to-date achievement to granting more than $11.1-million dollars to 271 communities across the nation.

Thanks to the support of our private donors, family foundations, corporate partners, event sponsors, benefit attendees, employee giving programs, and the generosity of individuals and parents across America, the Tony Hawk Foundation is touching lives of children in low-income communities everywhere, giving them safe, legal, quality places to skate. Our work is not possible without you!

The Foundation’s impact extends far beyond the financial support we award to communities to help build their parks. Testimonials from the past year have taught us that the process of building the skatepark not only helps develop leaders, but also imparts lessons of perseverance, organizational skills, government processes, and patience. We are dedicated to supporting the youth in these communities through the often long process of seeing their skatepark develop from concept to community acceptance and ultimately, construction. They are our pioneers, our champions, and it is with pride that we watch them put into action their dream for a quality, safe place to gather and practice the sport they love.

On October 5, 2005 we held our second-annual signature fundraiser event, Stand Up For Skateparks, in Beverly Hills at Ron Burkle’s Green Acres estate, raising $700,000 and attracting an A-list of celebrities, athletes, and musicians, as well as 900 supporters. Activision stepped up for their second year as title sponsor, and our corporate sponsors from last year returned with increased enthusiasm for another sold-out event. Our special thanks to Activision, McDonald’s, Quiksilver, Adio, Jeep, Wasserman Foundation, Ultimate Fighting Championship, NetJets, Bell Helmets, Birdhouse, and DUB.

While our corporate partners increased their financial and in-kind commitments, new corporate partners signed on to further our work through cash contributions and event sponsorships. Our private donors increased in both number and giving, and we saw increased donations through employee giving programs. Foundation gifts continued and new family foundations entered into the scene. We are grateful to all of these generous donors—they are all partners in making our work possible.

On behalf of the Tony Hawk Foundation, its Board Of Directors, and the millions of kids across the country who currently enjoy safe, high-quality skateparks—and will for years to come, I would like to thank our sponsors and donors for their overwhelming support. Over two-million children will be skating parks we’ve assisted next year, and your continued generosity is providing them a safe, quality place to form friendships while practicing the sport they love.

Kim Novick
Development Director
Athens is located in Georgia’s poorest county and has high rates of teen dropout and pregnancy, as well as juvenile delinquency. After a few attempts to get a park in Athens, local skaters took over a vacant lot and built some ramps, which served as the “SkatePark Of Athens” for a few years. In 1999 the city tore the Do-It Yourself (DIY) skatepark down. Street skating is illegal in Athens and on the massive University Of Georgia campus, and fines are steep.

In January 2003, 200 skaters and supporters filled a city-council meeting where the topic of a new park was to be discussed. Enough council members were impressed by the interest in a skatepark to add it to the master plan, but others were defiant. The skaters persisted, presenting research and arguing for the skatepark. The council eventually voted to allocate $150,000 to the project.

The skaters responded by raising $25,000 over the next year with a series of benefit projects, often involving local bands and artists. They interviewed several skatepark designers and builders before choosing Grindline. The skaters’ constant efforts were noted in numerous newspaper articles, keeping the community aware of their progress.

Determined, the skaters worked hard to change the local negative perception of skaters, rebutted complains about the skatepark project in Letters To The Editor pages, and came to meetings well prepared and ready to address the issues. The group applied for a Tony Hawk Foundation grant after raising $195,000, and the THF Board awarded them another $10,000 grant.

With each challenge they faced, the skaters remained respectful and positive, and over time it paid off. They were so successful in their fundraising that they were able to build a 12,000-square-foot concrete park, twice the size they had anticipated. The skaters of Athens learned that by working together in a positive way, their voice can be heard and they can make a difference. They also learned the ins and outs of how their local government functions. Local officials were surprised to learn that skateboarding and BMX are every bit as popular and no more dangerous than baseball or soccer. The community has a new appreciation for the sport and a new perception of skaters, as well as an understanding of the benefits of building a quality park and not taking any short cuts.

The skatepark is the most utilized recreational facility in town. Football and soccer fields stand empty while there is always someone skating at the new, legitimate SkatePark Of Athens. There is even talk about the need for another one.

Success Story
Athens, Georgia — Awarded $10,000

In January 2003, 200 skaters and supporters filled a city-council meeting where the topic of a new park was to be discussed. Enough council members were impressed by the interest in a skatepark to add it to the master plan, but others were defiant. The skaters persisted, presenting research and arguing for the skatepark. The council eventually voted to allocate $150,000 to the project.

The skaters responded by raising $25,000 over the next year with a series of benefit projects, often involving local bands and artists. They interviewed several skatepark designers and builders before choosing Grindline. The skaters’ constant efforts were noted in numerous newspaper articles, keeping the community aware of their progress.

Determined, the skaters worked hard to change the local negative perception of skaters, rebutted complaints about the skatepark project in Letters To The Editor pages, and came to meetings well prepared and ready to address the issues. The group applied for a Tony Hawk Foundation grant after raising $195,000, and the THF Board awarded them another $10,000 grant.

With each challenge they faced, the skaters remained respectful and positive, and over time it paid off. They were so successful in their fundraising that they were able to build a 12,000-square-foot concrete park, twice the size they had anticipated. The skaters of Athens learned that by working together in a positive way, their voice can be heard and they can make a difference. They also learned the ins and outs of how their local government functions. Local officials were surprised to learn that skateboarding and BMX are every bit as popular and no more dangerous than baseball or soccer. The community has a new appreciation for the sport and a new perception of skaters, as well as an understanding of the benefits of building a quality park and not taking any short cuts. The skatepark is the most utilized recreational facility in town. Football and soccer fields stand empty while there is always someone skating at the new, legitimate SkatePark Of Athens. There is even talk about the need for another one.
Skateboarding Vs. Childhood Obesity
Skateparks are an answer to the national epidemic.

The evidence is clear—kids today are less active than they were a few years ago, and it’s affecting their health. They spend more time indoors and less time participating in physical activities that provide much-needed exercise. Today, over 16 percent (9 million) of children and adolescents* in the U.S. are obese, a number that has doubled since 1980.

While the general trend is alarming enough, children in low-income families are particularly at risk. They have less access to costly organized sports leagues and equipment, and less opportunity to travel to parks or fields to exercise. Obesity has become a critical national priority, with long-term health risks including—but not limited to—heart disease, high cholesterol, depression, and even cancer**.

Skateboarding is a low-cost solution to this national health epidemic. It’s healthy, it’s athletic, and most importantly, it’s fun. If kids enjoy exercising, chances are they’ll do it more. And if they exercise more, they’ll be in better health—with more energy, greater self-esteem, and even improved academic performance†.

Between 1994 and 2004, youth participation in individual sports like skateboarding and snowboarding grew significantly, while youth participation in team sports like baseball and basketball actually declined††. Recognizing this trend, many high schools across the U.S. are contributing to skateboarding’s population explosion, incorporating skateboarding into their physical education programs, clubs, and after-school curricula.

With over half of the 271 skateparks the Tony Hawk Foundation has awarded grants to since 2002 now open, an estimated 1.5-million children annually are enjoying creative exercise at these facilities, and city and recreation officials routinely report that their new skatepark is by far the most popular facility they operate.

When planned carefully, with the help of skatepark professionals and local skaters, a public skatepark does so much more than give the kids somewhere to play. It gives them somewhere to grow and develop healthy lifestyles. But as far as they know, it’s just a place to enjoy themselves.

*Results of the National Health And Nutrition Examination Survey for 1999–2002 indicate that 16 percent of children and adolescents ages 6–19 years are overweight. For children, overweight is defined as a body mass index (BMI) at or above the 95th percentile of the CDC growth charts for age and gender. Source: “Prevalence Of Overweight Among Children And Adolescents,” Centers For Disease Control And Prevention (cdc.gov).

** Source: “Overweight And Obesity: Health Consequences,” United States Department Of Health And Human Services (surgeongeneral.gov).

† Source: “The Importance Of Regular Physical Activity For Children,” Centers For Disease Control And Prevention (cdc.gov).

Two high-school freshmen, Greg Hutchinson and Bentley Hamilton (who’ve since gone on to college), initiated the Oxford Hills skatepark project six years ago. They were fortunate to have the immediate support of local leaders and the Oxford Hills School Department, which owns the land where the park is located. However, attaining the community’s support and changing the perception of skaters as “skate punks” was definitely a challenge.

Determined to overcome objections and obstacles and find a way to make things happen, the skatepark committee did the research, held dozens of meetings and fundraisers, met deadlines, and made numerous presentations. They researched all construction options and determined that concrete would be the quietest, easiest to maintain, and would provide the most dynamic skating experience. The estimated cost for the 6,000-square-foot skatepark was roughly $197,000. After 5 years, they had raised over $96,000 and applied for a THF grant. Impressed with the determination to succeed and the growing community support, the Board Of Directors awarded Oxford a $5,000 grant.

Wally Hollyday was selected to help with design, and California Skateparks was chosen as builder. Hollyday’s company offered Oxford the opportunity to cut the expense significantly by allowing outside workers to do parts of the construction (under their supervision) that didn’t require specialized skills, like excavating, flat concrete, and rebar. Using donated labor and materials allowed the skate committee to save 30 percent and made the park a real community effort.

In the end, the park cost under $120,000, all of which was raised through donations and grants. The six-year project was a true community effort in which a lot of people spent a lot of hours making the dream a reality, and the people of Oxford Hills are justifiably proud of their new skatepark.

“The most rewarding aspect of this project, for the adults who worked with the youth involved, was watching the tremendous personal growth, development, and maturation of these young people as they persisted through opposition from many factions in the community and the many delays caused by lack of funding,” says John Parsons of the Oxford Hills School Department. “We learned that kids are very resilient, adaptable, and dedicated to causes in which they strongly believe.”

The skatepark is being used extensively, and the users have shown that they can and do respect the property and the rights of other users and neighbors. Oxford plans to add on to the skatepark when funds become available.
2005 Stand Up For Skateparks
Tony Hawk Foundation’s second-annual fundraising event was a resounding success.

Over 900 parents and kids had a fantastic, fun-filled day at the second-annual Stand Up For Skateparks event, which took place at Ron Burkle’s Green Acres Estate in Beverly Hills. Co-Chaired by Sean Penn, Jamie Lee Curtis, Pharrell Williams, David Spade, Jon Favreau, Stacy Peralta, Mat Hoffman, Bobby Kotick (Activision), and Bob McKnight (Quiksilver), the event raised over $700,000 for the Tony Hawk Foundation and its mission to help low-income communities build quality public skateparks.

Covering Green Acres’ expansive lawn, the event included a skate demonstration featuring X-Games Gold Medalists Tony Hawk, Bucky Lasek, and Bob Burnquist, plus vert legend Kevin Staab on Hawk’s massive ramp, carnival activities, live and silent auctions, and a stage show including comedy by Paul Rodriguez Sr., a track by rapper Lupe Fiasco, and a live set by Pennywise. A special VIP reception also featured a street-skating demo with Paul Rodriguez Jr., Brian Sumner, Joey Brezinski, Anthony Shetler, Kenny Anderson, and Nate Broussard.

Guests included many celebrities and their families: David Spade, Arsenio Hall, Marlee Matlin, Lisa Kudrow, Jacob Dylan of the Wallflowers, John Fogerty, Blair Underwood, Anthony Kiedis and Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Courtney Hansen, Fred Durst, Rodney and Holly Robinson Peete, Michael Rapaport, Jeanne Tripplehorn, Chuck Liddell, Leeza Gibbons, and producer Tony Scott, among others.

Next year the Tony Hawk Foundation’s Stand Up For Skateparks benefit will return to Beverly Hills on November 5, 2006. For more information, log on to www.standupforskateparks.org, or call Kim Novick at (949) 715-9843.

1. Tony Hawk spins a stalefish 540 during the Vert Demo.
2. Activities included this Velcro wall, among others.
3. Overview of the festival and auction areas.
4. Tony Hawk, Paul Rodriguez Sr., and Arsenio Hall visit during the VIP Reception.
5. Lisa Kudrow, her kids, and some friends arrive on the Red Carpet.
6. Rapper Lupe Fiasco performed onstage.
7. Paul Rodriguez Jr. skates during the Street Demo at the VIP Reception.
8. Tony Hawk takes time to sign some autographs for fans at the VIP Reception.
Board Of Directors

**Tony Hawk** is THF’s Founder and President. His long history and success as a professional skateboarder helped him pursue endorsements and a career with worldwide reach. The most recognized action-sports figure in the world, Tony is also President of Tony Hawk Inc., a worldwide leader in action-sports video games, merchandising, events, endorsements, and film and digital media. He regularly appears on television and in films, hosts a weekly show on the Sirius satellite radio network, and takes his talent on the road with the annual Boom Boom HuckJam tour. Tony’s success and good fortune have inspired him to do what he can to help young people, so in 2002 he launched the Tony Hawk Foundation to help achieve that goal.

**Lenore Hawk Dale**, Director of the Tony Hawk Fan Club and Tony’s sister, spent fifteen years as an educator and another ten years as the Director of Bilingual Education for a school district in Southern California. In her years of teaching, she worked in a variety of school districts impacted by issues surrounding low income.

**Pierce Flynn** has spent sixteen years in the action-sports industry, is the former National Executive Director of the Surfrider Foundation, and now serves as VP of Marketing for DUB Publishing And Industries, Inc. Pierce has a doctorate degree in sociology from the University of California, San Diego.

**Pat Hawk**, Tony’s sister, is COO of Tony Hawk, Inc. and has played a crucial role in the growth of the company in recent years. She has a strong background in sports marketing, licensing, and management.

**Steve Hawk**, Tony’s brother, was THF’s founding Executive Director. He has been a journalist for more than 25 years and is the former editor of *Surfer* magazine.

**Jared Levine** is a Senior Partner at Barnes Morris Klein Mark Yorn Barnes & Levine P.C., a Los Angeles-based law firm specializing in advising select clients in transactional media, entertainment, and related matters. Jared’s extensive background in entertainment and contract law has been crucial to the Tony Hawk Foundation’s continued success. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, he joined the THF Board Of Directors in 2005.

**Kim Novick** has served on the Board of Directors since THF was launched in 2002, and joined the foundation full-time in January 2004 as Development Director. Having served previously as Development Director for the Surfrider Foundation, she has a 12-year history of developing nonprofit organizations, as well as passion for community development, yoga, and being a mom.

**Mike Vallely** has spent most of his 20 years as a pro skateboarder touring all over the world and skating more parks and spots than anyone. His broad knowledge, experience, and passion for skateboarding make him a valuable member of the THF Board Of Directors.

**Miki Vuckovich** is a founding member of the THF Board Of Directors, a skateboard-industry veteran of 21 years, and succeeded Steve Hawk as Executive Director in March 2004. Miki has been skating for 26 years and has fond memories of the classic skateparks of the 1970s.
The Tony Hawk Foundation seeks to foster lasting improvements in society, with an emphasis on supporting and empowering youth. Through special events, grants, and technical assistance, the Foundation supports recreational programs with a focus on the creation of public skateboard parks in low-income communities. The Foundation favors programs that clearly demonstrate that funds received will produce tangible, ongoing positive results.