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 Tony Hawk 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.
The process of building a skatepark was a learning process for all. The skaters learned that they can influence decisions and that they can trust others. City officials learned that skateboarding is not just a fad sport—it has a strong following and if you build the skatepark right, it will be well received.

John Turnbull, Bloomington, Indiana

+ letter from the founder

Skateparks are on the rise, but we still need plenty more of them, built correctly and in communities where kids are most at-risk.

2007 was a huge year for THF. We are making great strides in helping to provide public skateparks in low-income areas. We are very proud of what we have accomplished, especially in this challenging economic climate. These communities need help now more than ever, and we are managing to make a tangible, positive difference in the lives of at-risk youth. We raised over $1-million at our 2007 Stand Up For Skateparks event, which included more than $60,000 pledged for a skatepark project in Compton, California. Despite this success, there is still much work to be done, and we are ready.

Over the past year we awarded $625,600 to 53 communities, a 46% increase in annual funding. All told, that brings us to 365 grants worth over $2-million to help build skateparks since our inception in 2002. Of the 365 skatepark projects we’ve awarded grants to in the past six years, 262 parks (or 69 percent) are open and serving approximately 2.3-million youth each year.

I cannot stress enough the importance of skateparks in high-risk areas—they offer kids a safe place to go and something to do that gives them a sense of self-esteem they may never find anywhere else. This is especially true when those very kids were the ones petitioning the city in hopes of getting their own place to skate. Once communities get their first park, they almost always build more because they see the enduring positive effects they have on kids. Not to mention the parks get used from dawn to dusk.

Fundraising is a bigger challenge than ever, but our annual Stand Up For Skateparks benefit has grown steadily. Taking place, once again, in Beverly Hills, California, the event had a slew of celebrities, plus plenty of activities and entertainment for all. The vert demo featured a virtual A-list of talent: Shaun White, Andy Macdonald, Bob Burnquist, Joan Postec, Kevin Robinson, Mat Hoffman and yours truly. Me First And The Gimme Gimmes rocked the stage with their punk-rock covers of classic ‘70s and ‘80s songs. Guests were also likely to bump into celebrities such as Sean "Diddy" Combs, Lance Armstrong, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jon Favreau, Lasse Ribbons, David Speck, Ed Helms, Russell Simmons, Michael Rapaport, Holly Robinson Peete, Kathy Ireland, Staten Lessard, Trent Reznor, Arsenio Hall, Chris “Big Black” Boykin, Chuck Liddell, and Rashad Evans (among others). Fourteen youths from the city of Compton joined me on stage for a pledge drive to support a skatepark in their community—we raised just over $60,000 for the proposed landmark Compton skatepark, which will open in Fall 2008.

Skateparks are on the rise, but we still need plenty more of them, built correctly and in communities where kids are most at-risk. Our economic climate is challenging, but we are committed to helping those in need now more than ever. Thanks to everyone who has been supporting us. Let’s keep the wheels rolling!
+ 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 skateparks 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. 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 typically range from $1,000 to $25,000. In 2007 we reviewed 209 applications and awarded 53 grants totaling $626,500. As we expand our fundraising avenues and resources, we hope to continue increasing our grant awards in 2008.

public skatepark development guide

This collaboration between the Tony Hawk Foundation, the nonprofit Skaters For Public Skateparks, and the International Association of Skateboard Companies (IASC) is the definitive guide for skatepark advocates and city or parks officials pursuing a new public skatepark. Drawing from the collective wisdom of dozens of veteran skatepark advocates, the 128-page guide is full of in-depth information and illustrations that cover topics ranging from the skatepark vision, advocacy, fundraising, design, and management. Funded by the Tony Hawk Foundation, this must-have manual for skatepark advocates is available for free from www.skatepark.org.

technical assistance

Tony Hawk Foundation staff fields an average of 400 e-mails and phone calls a month. 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

Skaters learned that to be successful in building a skatepark they must change people’s attitudes and conceptions of skateboarding and skateparks. City officials and community members learned that skateboarding is not a fad; it has been around a long time, and will be around a long time to come.”

Foundation staff can be reached by e-mail at: contact@tonyhawkfoundation.org or by calling (760) 477-2479

// Pat Hansen, McKinleyville, California

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 a grant. These products are used as raffle or auction items to generate funds for skatepark projects.

patrick kerr skateboard scholarship

Since 2004, the Tony Hawk Foundation has sponsored an annual $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.skateboardingscholarship.org. The Tony Hawk Foundation is proud to help support skaters pursuing academic excellence.

+ why skateparks?

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 over 13-million participants, yet only about 2,500 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 skateboarding 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.

“Ice skating is not a fad; it has been around a long time, and will be around a long time to come.”

// Mike Watkins, Milton-Freewater, Oregon

“Receiving the Tony Hawk Foundation Grant helped us to generate other funding and gain name recognition to the project. It brought to light the fact that if the Tony Hawk Foundation took this much interest in Milton-Freewater’s skatepark, so should the locals.”

// Pat Hansen, Milton-Freewater, Oregon

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// Mike Watkins, Milton-Freewater, Oregon
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, more recently, hundreds of municipalities have 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. Through phone calls and e-mail, 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.

“The skatepark has been totally positive! Complaints about skaters in local shopping centers and along sidewalks have ceased because the kids are now at the skatepark instead of where they aren’t supposed to be.”

// Officer Jon Lands, Blaine, Washington

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 five years the foundation has awarded over $2 million to 365 public skatepark projects across the United States.

To date, 262 Tony Hawk Foundation grant recipients have opened their skateparks and are currently serving an estimated 2.3 million children annually. With the remaining 113 grant recipients scheduled to open their parks in the next twelve months, an estimated 3.3 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 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.

“I don’t want this to sound like some usual reply, but without the help from the Foundation we wouldn’t have made it this far. We are very, very thankful!”

// John Murray, Washburn, Wisconsin
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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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// Dave Everett, Kent, Washington

*The many meetings we had with local skaters, bicyclists, and business owners led to a deeper understanding of each others’ needs, a melding of spirit, and a huge lesson on the art of compromise for the greater good.*

// David Snider, Somerset, Ohio

“The whole skatepark experience has been a wonder to skaters and non-skaters alike. Older citizens marvel at the athleticism and imaginations of the skaters, and skaters have a new (or perhaps first time) respect for how a small town village government can work if patience and fortitude are applied to a community in need.”

// David Snider, Somerset, Ohio

“The many meetings we had with local skaters, bicyclists, and business owners led to a deeper understanding of each others’ needs, a melding of spirit, and a huge lesson on the art of compromise for the greater good.”

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+ community building
the skatepark process teaches youth lifelong lessons.

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.

Despite the success of this approach, there are still many challenges to overcome. In some communities, the opposition is fierce and entrenched. In others, the support is scattered and unpredictable. But with determination and persistence, it is possible to overcome these obstacles and create a place where skaters can thrive.

We believe that the Tony Hawk Foundation can help make this happen by providing financial support, technical assistance, and a network of resources to communities that are working to build skateparks. We also believe that by partnering with local organizations and community leaders, we can ensure that our projects are sustainable and beneficial to all members of the community.

We invite you to join us in this important work. Together, we can create a world where everyone has a place to play, and where the power of perseverance and the spirit of youth are celebrated.”
When the closest skatepark is over an hour away, it’s tough for most skateboarders to make it there very often—especially when they’re from a low-income, rural town with nowhere to skate. Local skaters in Polson, Montana, decided this reality was one worth changing. Having their previous homemade skatepark torn down did not discourage them; instead, they remained positive and optimistic about their skatepark prospects. They banded together and decided to go to work on their dream skatepark, confident that it would be an investment in Polson’s future.

The skaters formed The Seventh Avenue Wheelpark Association in December 2004, and met every week to develop their dream of a professionally designed skatepark. The Association promoted the project and raised money at community functions, and started working with a professional skatepark builder on the design. The skaters remained involved throughout the entire process and learned a lot through assisting with the grant writing, and through fundraising by visiting local service organizations to speak about the skatepark and solicit donations.

After raising over $200,000 via fundraisers, grants, and matching donations, they applied for a Tony Hawk Foundation grant in 2005. Impressed with the group’s unwavering dedication to the project, the THF Board of Directors awarded them one of the largest grants that year: $25,000.

The 12,000-square-foot concrete skatepark opened in 2006 after much anticipation. “The skatepark has given a certain group of young people that had previously fallen through the cracks and off the radar screen of the community, a place to shine and realize that they too have great potential to be tapped in a positive, creative way,” says Polson Parks And Recreation Superintendent Karen Sargeant.

The skaters not only gained their dream skatepark, but through their presentations to the community and their persistence, they dispelled the stereotypes that skaters often suffer. “With the correct guidance and encouragement, the young people in our city could accomplish great things,” says Sargeant.

And they were right to make that investment in their youth—people travel from all over the world to visit the skatepark in Polson, helping boost the local economy.
As public skateparks grow in popularity, so does the need for funding. In 2007, The Tony Hawk Foundation received a total of 151 applications from communities within 42 states. The THF Board of Directors awarded 52 grants to skatepark projects in 23 states, totaling $525,500.

To-date (2002–2007), The Tony Hawk Foundation has received grant applications from all 50 states and has awarded grants to projects in 46 of them, plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. Since 2002, THF has received over 1,395 applications and has awarded 365 grants worth $2,051,984.
“If you really want something bad enough and are not afraid to ask or work for it, anything is possible. Never give up.”

// James “Blubba” Robinson, Oxford, Mississippi

Rooted deep in the South, Oxford, Mississippi is isolated enough that its skaters had to travel 100 miles if they wanted to visit a skatepark. With a median household income of $20,526 and seventeen percent of children living below the poverty level, there were not many recreational opportunities for youth in Oxford.

Long ago local skaters recognized the need for a skatepark, only they weren’t sure where to begin. They started by pitching the idea to the adults in the community, and one parent ran an ad in the paper to solicit others’ interest in a public skatepark. The skaters soon found themselves with immense support from throughout the community, including the Mayor. After much planning and organizing, the group presented the skatepark proposal to the Board of Aldermen. It was determined that the project be overseen by the Oxford Park Committee, and a fundraising committee was established in April 2002.

Local skaters were heavily involved in all fundraising efforts, from a mass mailing and phone-call campaign to music events, bake sales and T-shirt sales. They set a total fundraising goal of $135,000, and through hard work and persistence, the skaters raised over $13,000 of it. The skaters also knew their input would be vital in the design process, and they researched the type of features they wanted in the skatepark. Participating in town meetings became routine for the skaters, and the local newspaper even picked up their momentum by publishing numerous articles about the skaters’ efforts.

A year after the local skaters began their effort, the skatepark committee applied for a Tony Hawk Foundation grant in 2003. They received $25,000 toward the construction of a 10,000 square-foot concrete skatepark, which opened in 2006.

The Oxford Skatepark has provided a safe place for kids to skate ever since, and remains immensely popular among the community. It took four years to complete their skatepark, but the skaters learned that patience and dedication go a long way. “If you really want something bad enough and are not afraid to ask or work for it, anything is possible,” says Oxford Park Commissioner James “Blubba” Robinson. “Never give up.”

Our primary goal at the Tony Hawk Foundation is to help local leaders and skatepark advocates realize that there is a right way to plan and build a skatepark—and many wrong ways. The point is to recognize which is which.

For qualifying communities, we also have our Grant Program that helps fund skateparks in low-income areas. But if all we did was write checks to pay for skateparks, we’d be ignoring the very thing that inspired Tony to establish and dedicate his foundation to this cause—that skateparks are still a new concept for most communities that are pursuing them, and they need to understand the process and their full range of options.

Having worked with communities across the country for six years now, we know that if we could collect the experiences of the hundreds of advocates we’ve worked with, and share their lessons with those who follow, we could have a positive and lasting effect on skatepark development. So that’s what we’ve done. And continue to do.

It was Tony’s vision in 2002, and it’s been our mandate ever since.

This year the Tony Hawk Foundation joined with the nonprofit Skaters For Public Skateparks and the trade association International Association Of Skateboard Companies to coordinate advocacy initiatives and co-publish the Public Skatepark Development Guide, the indispensable how-to manual for skatepark advocates. In the next year we will see the 300th park we’ve assisted open to the public, and award our 400th skatepark grant. But less calculable is the number of communities whose e-mails and phone calls we’ve answered with crucial information (or maybe just some much-needed encouragement), or the amount of data downloaded from our Web site that helped sway a city council’s decision to support a skatepark project.

Ultimately, it’s not about how many skateparks we helped build, but that access to free, quality public skateparks continues to grow, and that skaters have more choices in sanctioned, skateable space closer to home.

What’s critical is to realize that, six years after Tony launched his foundation, it’s happening. It brings the realization of the dreams of hundreds of communities across the country.

With the momentum that individual skatepark advocates everywhere have collectively built, we continue working to share those success stories with communities yet to enjoy the benefits of a public skatepark.

Miki Vuckovich
Executive Director

It’s happening everywhere. Skateparks. In every state. Skateparks of all kinds, sizes, configurations. Custom concrete, modular… even modular concrete. Whatever the size, whatever the budget, whatever the need, there’s a skatepark for every community. In recent years we’ve even seen pre-designed mini parks (or skate spots) built for under $100,000, as well as custom mega-parks for several million. As skatepark developers perfect their methods, and new materials and techniques are introduced, the ability for communities to choose the size, style, and surface material is growing—regardless of budget.

Despite the proliferation of skateparks nationwide in recent years, at the current rate we are decades from meeting the need for sanctioned skateable public space. What’s important is that we continue to improve the quality of the parks we are building, and eliminate waste—wasted spaces from poor design, wasted time from disorganization, and wasted money on designers or builders who’ve never worked on a skatepark before they get to your project.

This year we had communities like Wheeling, West Virginia, Mt. Shasta, California, and Sitka, Alaska see their efforts come to fruition with the opening of their parks. And if we continue to see more great examples like these for other communities to emulate, the skatepark revolution will reach further into areas that, for one reason or another, haven’t seen the positive effects that a skatepark can have.

Great skateparks beget great skateparks. A successful model for one community becomes the blueprint for another. Our primary goal at the Tony Hawk Foundation is to help local leaders and skatepark advocates realize that there is a right way to plan and build a skatepark—and many wrong ways. The point is to recognize which is which.

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Miki Vuckovich
Executive Director

Our primary goal at the Tony Hawk Foundation is to help local leaders and skatepark advocates realize that there is a right way to plan and build a skatepark—and many wrong ways.
The perception of skateboarding has changed from an outcast sport to a vibrant, healthy recreational choice for our youth today.

2007 marked tremendous growth for the Tony Hawk Foundation in overall community impact and budget. In the U.S. we have moved from acceptance of public skateparks to the clear demand for them. The perception of skateboarding has changed from an outcast sport to a vibrant, healthy recreational choice for our youth today. And, as seen in major media outlets, professional skateboarding has become a viable and in some cases, lucrative career path.

This newfound acceptance has launched a “domino effect” demand to offer these safe, legal skateparks to our youth across the U.S. Making these quality facilities available to youth takes significant dollars, approximately $50 per square foot. To meet that increasing demand, the Tony Hawk Foundation has successfully grown our overall budget by 16% in the past year, enabling us to help fund an additional 53 skateparks in 2007 (a 46% increase in grant funding over the prior year), bringing our total-to-date achievement to granting more than $2 million dollars to 385 low-income communities across the nation. There are now 252 operational skateparks that received financial assistance from the Tony Hawk Foundation, serving 2.3 million skaters annually (76% of whom are under the age of 18).

Empowered with corporate sponsorship support, private donations, and foundation grants, we are able to answer the call from countless parents, skaters and city officials to usher in quality public skateparks in low-income communities. We are dedicated to bringing those safe, legal places of recreation to our youth who need them most. Our ability to recognize and serve these at-risk youth through relevant, high-quality skateparks has created a bridge between the charitable efforts of the Tony Hawk Foundation and the deserving communities where they live. Providing safe, quality skateparks is giving these youth positive alternatives for a healthy lifestyle. Their personal involvement in the process to get their skatepark built provides each of them a valuable lesson in leadership, perseverance, activism, community service, and social responsibility.

On October 7, 2007, we held our fourth-annual Tony Hawk’s Stand Up For Skateparks Benefit in Beverly Hills at Ron Burkle’s Green Acres estate. We are proud to announce that we raised a record-breaking $1,024,000! A special “ask” was made that day to help create a skatepark in the City of Compton, California. $70,000 was raised for that park, which is now just a few months away from completion. We once again must send out our sincerest thanks to Activision, who stepped up as our Title sponsor for the fourth year in a row, and Mr. Ron Burkle for his continued generosity in opening up his home to host this annual benefit. Our work would not be possible without you and the generous support of our corporate sponsors and our 900 loyal benefit attendees.

By next year, over 13 million individuals will be skating in the U.S. and your continued support is helping bring them safe, quality places to practice the sport they love. On behalf of the Tony Hawk Foundation, its Board of Directors, and the millions of kids across the country who will be given safe recreational facilities that enable them to develop healthy self-esteem through an active lifestyle, I would like to thank you, our corporate partners, private donors, foundations, benefit attendees, and participating employee-giving programs for your continued generosity. Together, we were pioneers in this unique philanthropic effort; today our youth are experiencing the benefits of your commitment. We are, as always, grateful for the change you are making, one community, one child at a time.

Kim Novick
Development Director

The perception of skateboarding has changed from an outcast sport to a vibrant, healthy recreational choice for our youth today.
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 it's important. 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.

In addition to the direct health benefits, research even suggests that skateboarding can help keep teens out of trouble. A 2006 study found that skateboarders are less likely to smoke cigarettes, have sex, and skip school.

Between 1997 and 2007, youth participation in individual sports like skateboarding and snowboarding grew significantly, while youth participation in team sports like softball 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 252 of the 366 skateparks the Tony Hawk Foundation has awarded grants to since 2002 now open, an estimated 2.3 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're concerned, it's just a place to enjoy themselves.

+ skateparks activate youth

Skateboarding is a healthy alternative. In 2007 Ten Year History of Sports Participation, National Sporting Goods Association (nsga.org).

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The Tony Hawk Foundation held its fourth-annual Tony Hawk’s Proving Ground Stand Up For Skateparks benefit Sunday, October 7, 2007 at the Green Acres estate in Beverly Hills, California. With 1,000 guests in attendance, the Foundation raised over $1-million to further its mission of bringing free, quality public skateparks to low-income communities across the U.S.

Celebrities and athletes in attendance included Sean “Diddy” Combs, Lance Armstrong, Jamie Lee Curtis, Jon Favreau, Leaza Gibbons, David Spade, Ed Harris, Russell Simmons, Michael Rapaport, Holy Robinson Peete, Kathy Ireland, Stefan Lessard, Trent Reznor, Arsenio Hall, Chris “Big Black” Boykin, Chuck Liddell, and Rashad Evans.

At a noon press conference with Tony Hawk, Lance Armstrong, Shaun White, Jamie Lee Curtis, Leaza Gibbons, Jon Favreau, Kevin Robinson, Mat Hoffman, and Bob Burnquist, the group outlined the Foundation’s mission to help finance and provide guidance in the development of free public skateparks in low-income areas across the United States, and each athlete and co-chair gave a personal statement about why the foundation’s work is meaningful to them. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” said event co-chair Lance Armstrong. “And what Tony’s foundation is doing is helping to build places for these under-served kids to exercise, be healthy, and have fun.”

Fourteen youths from the city of Compton, California joined Tony Hawk on stage for a Pledge Drive to support a skatepark in their community. The Pledge Drive raised just over $80,500 for the proposed landscape Compton skatepark, which promises to be a destination park for not only local youth, but for skaters throughout the region.

“This was our most successful event by far,” said Tony Hawk. “Between the energy levels, the smiling faces, the unmatched vert talent, the great music, the caliber of celebrities, and the record fundraising, we can’t believe how far we’ve come in four short years.”

My favorite part was the Pledge Drive for the Compton skatepark project—thousands of dollars raised in minutes.”

The benefit featured a vert skateboarding and BMX demonstration by Tony Hawk, Shaun White, Andy Macdonald, Bob Burnquist, Jan Postec, Kevin Robinson, and Mat Hoffman, carnival games and activities, and live music by Me First And The Gimme Gimmes. A live auction featured a 2008 “Hawkized” DUB Edition Jeep 4-Door Wrangler and many unique items and experiences.

This was the fourth year that Activision supported the event as its title sponsor. Premier sponsors included UFC, Dynacraft, Quiksilver, and Jeep. CONTACT _Con-42378812 1/8 1/8 Tony Hawk’s Proving Ground Stand Up For Skateparks was also supported by Six Flags, X Games, Tech Deck, Adio, DUB, and the Wasserman Foundation.

In 2008 Stand Up For Skateparks returns to Beverly Hills on November 9. For more information, log on to www.standupforskateparks.org, or call (760) 477-2479.

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Lewiston has proven a skatepark is much more than just a place to skate—it’s an asset for the entire community.

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Patrick Butler, Lewiston, Maine

Lewiston is Maine’s second-largest city (population 36,000), and over 15% of residents live below the poverty level. With no skateparks in the region, a local skate shop spearheaded a public skatepark effort by organizing the Skat Lewiston Auburn Movement (SLAM). SLAM members knew it was possible to have a first-rate skatepark in a low-income community, and were positive it would provide countless benefits for Lewiston’s growing diverse population.

SLAM began their skatepark effort by holding a series of meetings. The older skaters took the leadership roles, while the younger skaters and parents helped with fundraising and lobbying. With all walks of life in support, the city quickly took note of the community’s overwhelming interest in a skatepark, and signed on to the project.

SLAM’s fundraising efforts paid off. Reaching out to individual Lewiston residents to solicit donations provided valuable new interactions between different community members. In addition to private donors, SLAM was also able to solicit contributions from corporations and foundations. By the time the group applied for a Tony Hawk Foundation grant in 2005, they had already raised much of their $269,000 goal. So the THF Board of Directors awarded SLAM $10,000 to help them complete their fundraising.

Opened in 2006, the Lewiston-Auburn Skatepark is Maine’s first concrete park. On any given day you can find 100 plus skaters there, many of whom travel over 60 miles just to skate. According to SLAM fundraising Chairman Patrick Butler, one of the most positive outcomes is that community members of all ages and interests have really embraced the park. “Elder, non-skaters love to go to the park to watch and enjoy the demonstrations by skaters,” he says. “The public library held a documentary film-making workshop at the park, and parents helped with fundraising and lobbying. With all walks of life in support, the city quickly took note of the community’s overwhelming interest in a skatepark, and signed on to the project.”

Lewiston has proven a skatepark is much more than just a place to skate—it’s an asset for the entire community.
board of directors

Tony Hawk is THF’s Founder and President. His long history and success as a professional skateboarder helped him pursue 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 a classroom teacher and another ten years as the Director of Bilingual Education for a school district in Southern California. In her years in education, she worked with families in several low-income school districts.

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 Business Development 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, has been COO of Tony Hawk, Inc. for over ten years and has played a crucial role in the growth of the company and its affiliates. She has a strong background in entertainment, 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 Morris Yorn Barnes & Levine, 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 THF’s continued success. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, he joined the THF Board Of Directors in 2005.

Kim Novick is a founding member of the THF Board Of Directors and in 2004 joined the Foundation’s staff as Development Director. Having served previously as Development Director for a number of national and international non-profit organizations, she has a 13-year history in nonprofit development, as well as passion for community development, yoga, and being a mom.

Mike Vallely has spent more than 20 years as a pro skateboarder touring all over the world and skateboarding 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 23 years, and succeeded Steve Hawk as Executive Director in 2004. Miki has been skating for 27 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 Tony Hawk 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.