“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 respect for how a small-town government can work if patience and fortitude are applied. We remain indebted to the foundation—not only for the grant award, but also for the insights into the sport and the little pep talks we received throughout the process. What you did for us here in Somerset was the catalyst that made it possible.”
—David Snider, Somerset, Ohio

Letter From The Founder

2008 flew past and we are stronger than ever. Even in a shaky economy, we’ve been able to help create more public skateparks in low-income areas than in previous years. It’s all thanks to the tireless work of our staff and our generous donors. But plenty of communities are still in need, and we hope to continue making the same positive differences in their lives as we have with our previous grant recipients.

In 2008, we managed to raise over 1.5-million dollars at our Stand Up For Skateparks events, and we even hosted our first East Coast event in The Hamptons. But our mission is far from over. In fact, what we’ve learned this year is just how great the need for our assistance remains.

In 2008 we awarded 668,516 dollars to 59 communities (compared to $525,500 to 53 communities in 2007). That’s a 27-percent increase in grant funding over 2007. Which brings us to 409 grants worth over 2.7-million dollars to help build skateparks since our inception in 2002.

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 are the ones petitioning the city with the hope 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 keeps growing. Taking place, once again, at Ron Burkle’s Green Acres estate in Beverly Hills, California, the original 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, Jean Postor, Kevin Staab, John Parker, and Dennis McCoy (plus yours truly). Punk icons Social Distortion rocked the stage with amazing acoustic versions of their classics. Guests were also likely to bump into celebrities such as Anthony Kiedis, David Spade, Jamie Lee Curtis, Perry Farrell, Chris “Big Black” Boykin, and Mia Hamm, just to name a few.

Several youths from my hometown community of Tierrasanta joined me on stage for a pledge drive, and we managed to raise 79,000 dollars for a public skatepark there. I know from growing up in Tierrasanta that these kids need more outlets and more positive reinforcement from their community. At Stand Up For Skateparks, we managed to help get something started.

Stand Up For Skateparks also traveled this year to The Hamptons. Held at the Ross School campus in Bridgehampton, New York, the event marked the first time Stand Up For Skateparks has been held outside of the Los Angeles area. It was attended by the likes of Jon Bon Jovi, Russell Simmons, Vern Troyer, UFC fighters Wanderlei Silva and Matt Serra, and others, and the Vert Demo featured the traveling troupe of skaters and BMXers from the 2008 Boom Boom HuckJam Tour. Video turntablist Mike Relm literally produced the show’s sounds and images, but as in Beverly Hills, the coolest part of the day was standing on the stage (which in Bridgehampton was actually the ramp) with local youth to raise money for their skatepark. In this case it was the Manhattan Bridge Skatepark in New York City, and we raised 53,000 dollars for it.

Skateparks are on the rise, but we still need plenty more of them, built correctly, and located in communities where kids are most at-risk. We are committed to helping those in need now more than ever.

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting us. We’ll keep shredding, thanks to you.

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.
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 3,000 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 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.

“The unique thing about this whole project is that it was initiated by the kids. They learned that if you have a dream and you’re willing to work hard on it, you can make it a reality. That’s an important lesson for kids to learn.”

—Mayor John Schott, Anthony, Kansas

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 skateboards 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.

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 2008 we reviewed 147 applications and awarded 59 grants, totaling $668,516.

Technical Assistance

Tony Hawk Foundation staff field an average of 400 e-mails and phone calls each 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

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

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.

“The unique thing about this whole project is that it was initiated by the kids. They learned that if you have a dream and you’re willing to work hard on it, you can make it a reality. That’s an important lesson for kids to learn.”

—Mayor John Schott, Anthony, Kansas

“Other communities learn we received the Tony Hawk Foundation grant and want to know how we were so lucky. And let me tell you, when the kids get asked that question you should see their faces light up with pride just knowing THF supported the little town of Almira.”

—Gina Boutain, Almira, Washington
Serving Communities

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 skateparks. 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 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.

Fulfilling Our Mission

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 $2.7-million to 409 public skatepark projects across the United States.

To-date, 319 Tony Hawk Foundation grant recipients have opened their skateparks and are currently serving an estimated 2.9-million children annually. With the remaining 90 grant recipients scheduled to open their parks in the next twelve months, an estimated 3.7-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.

“If not for your help, I doubt our city would have followed through with the park. It has been busy since it opened. The kids are loving it, and we simply cannot thank you enough.”

—Carol Pope, Bardstown, Kentucky
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.

Community Building

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.

“This was a wonderful lesson in civics for the youth who were involved. They started out as a small band of disenfranchised youth who took a petition to City Hall and ended up mobilizing an entire community to support building and operating this park. The young man who had been the first signature on the petition actually cut the ribbon to officially open the park three years later. These youth learned that they can make a difference in the community and that people listen and care.”

—Sharon Michels, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

“So many local kids got and continue to get so much out of the skatepark. The boys most directly involved gained our community’s respect and learned so many things that will help them in their future lives.”

—Barb Seaman, Homer, Alaska
Skateparks Activate Youth

Skateboarding is a healthy alternative.

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.

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 2008, youth participation in individual sports like skateboarding and snowboarding grew significantly, while youth participation in team sports like softball and baseball 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 319 of the 409 skateparks the Tony Hawk Foundation has awarded grants to since 2002 now open, an estimated 2.9 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 go. 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. (Kingsbury Park District)

McKeesport, Pennsylvania

"There isn’t a time school is out of session and the weather is good, that there isn’t a crowd at the skatepark."
—Mary Browne, Madison, Indiana

2008 Grant Recipients

Stand Up For Skateparks
San Diego, California (Tierrasanta) – $79,000
New York, New York (Chinatown) – $53,000

$50,000 Grants
Nederland, Colorado (Nedsk8, Inc.)

$25,000 Grants
Harrison, Arkansas (Main Street Harrison Foundation, Inc.)
Oceanside, California (City of Oceanside)
Columbus, Georgia (City of Columbus)
Bemidji, Minnesota (Evergreen House)
Erie, Pennsylvania (City of Erie)

$15,000 Grants
Mount Shasta, California (Associated Charitable Resource of South Siskiyou)

$10,000 Grants
Waldron, Arkansas (City of Waldron)

$5,000 Grants
Manas, Arkansas (City of Manas, Arkansas)


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1. 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 85th 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).


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As public skateparks grow in popularity, so does the need for funding. In 2008, the Tony Hawk Foundation received a total of 147 applications from communities in 44 states. The THF Board of Directors awarded 59 grants to skatepark projects in 31 states, totaling $668,516.

To-date (2002–2008), THF has received grant applications from all 50 states and has awarded grants to projects in 48 of them, plus the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. Since 2002, THF has received 1,480 applications and has awarded 409 grants worth $2,719,350.

**2002–2008 Grant Recipients**

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Barstow, California, is a geographically isolated, low-income community with about 36 percent of its population receiving some form of public assistance. The public skatepark opened in 2007, and since then has been serving youth as a tremendous recreation facility that affords them the opportunity to develop life-building skills like discipline and perseverance.

The project started in 2004, when local skaters began lobbying the city council to get a park built. The council grew to support and eventually official support, and eventually produced the skatepark. The project was a success story for the City of Barstow. This is evident by...
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.

Text Donations

You can make an instant $5 donation to the Tony Hawk Foundation by texting the word RIDE to 90999 on your mobile phone.* When prompted please reply with YES to confirm your gift.

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. To make a donation to the Tony Hawk Foundation, or to find out other ways you can support our work, contact Kim Novick: (760) 477-2479, 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, California 92081

Your tax-deductible donation will be acknowledged by mail.

For more information, visit our Web site at www.tonyhawkfoundation.org

Text the word RIDE to 90999 to make a $5 donation to the Tony Hawk Foundation *

"Receiving the Tony Hawk Foundation Grant helped us to generate other funding and gain name recognition for 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. Thank you Tony Hawk Foundation!"

—Mike Watkins, Milton-Freewater, Oregon

2008 was an emblematic year for the Tony Hawk Foundation. Not unique to our foundation, but certainly a growing theme in the nonprofit sector, we faced many economic challenges. However, our overall growth in budget, grant making, and creation of public skateparks illustrates the sheer determination of the network of donors, corporate sponsors, individuals, and staff that make up this unique organization. It is with great pride, gratitude, humility and sincerity that we thank you for your commitment to the Tony Hawk Foundation mission. Your sustained support is making a difference in the lives of millions of at-risk youth across the U.S. And though you may never know or meet these youth, the testimonials that come in daily are concrete examples of the positive impact your funding and the sport of skateboarding are having on them.

Through the process of creating a public skatepark, youth are learning to take ownership and have pride in their communities. They speak of the value of public input and their realization that perseverance really does pay off. They tell us about the lessons of working together with all sectors of their community to bring about positive change, and they realize one person—no matter how young or old—can truly make a difference. These life lessons are invaluable. They will take these with them well after the concrete is worn, a new generation of skaters inherits the park, and they move out into the world. These youth have come to rely on our support to jumpstart their dreams, and it’s working.

Because of our loyal supporters, we achieved a 48% increase in our total budget over 2007. This increase enabled us to meet the needs of thousands more youth across the country, awarding close to $70,000 dollars to 59 deserving communities throughout the U.S. These numbers mark a 27% increase in grant funding over 2007. With skateboarding still topping the list as one of the fastest-growing sports in the U.S., it remains our top priority to continue our mission to bring these public skateparks to low-income communities and our youth who need a safe, legal place to practice a healthy sport.

To-date the foundation has awarded over 2.7 million dollars to create 409 skateparks that now serve approximately 2.9 million skaters annually (75% of whom are under the age of 18). It is worth noting that the amount granted is leveraged in each community through local matching grants, private donations, and foundation gifts. While the financial support of these skateparks from the Tony Hawk Foundation is just under three million dollars, the approximate cost to create these 409 skateparks is over 72 million dollars. In addition, the foundation budget itself remains lean with 82% of every dollar raised directly into programs and the services we provide.

Our annual Activision Presents Stand Up For Skateparks benefit events are our largest sources of income for the foundation, collectively raising over 1.5 million dollars in 2008. For the first time, both Coasts enjoyed this benefit: Activision Presents Stand Up For Skateparks in Bridgehampton, New York on August 11 raised 575,000 dollars, including 50,000 dollars for the Manhattan Bridge Skatepark in New York City; and the fifth-annual Activision Presents Stand Up For Skateparks benefit returned to Run Burkle’s Green Acres Estate in Beverly Hills, California, once again sold out, and raised over one million dollars—with 79,000 dollars going directly to kickstart the production of a public skatepark in the military community of Tieraasanta in San Diego.

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 self-esteem through an active lifestyle, I would like to thank you, our corporate partners, private donors, foundations, and benefit attendees for your continued generosity. We are, as always, grateful for the change you are making, one community, one child at a time.

Kim Novick
Development Director

Letter From The Development Director

"Receiving the Tony Hawk Foundation Grant helped us to generate other funding and gain name recognition for 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. Thank you Tony Hawk Foundation!"

—Mike Watkins, Milton-Freewater, Oregon

Your sustained support is making a difference in the lives of millions of at-risk youth across the U.S.

2008 Revenue

- Private: 10%
- Foundation: 38%
- Corporate: 52%

2008 Functional Expenses

- Management and General: 8%
- Fundraising: 10%
- Program Services: 82%
Tony Hawk Foundation Signature Benefit Event Goes Bi-Coastal

Activision Presents Stand Up For Skateparks comes to The Hamptons and Beverly Hills.

Activision Presents Stand Up For Skateparks returned to Ron Burkle’s expansive Green Acres estate in Beverly Hills in November, but not before the Tony Hawk Foundation’s signature event made its East Coast debut in The Hamptons in August.

Held at the Ross School in Bridgehampton, New York, the event marked the first time Activision Presents Stand Up For Skateparks has been held outside of the Los Angeles area. Attended by the likes of Jon Bon Jovi, Russell Simmons, Vern Troyer, Michael Colman, Nacho Figueras, UFC fighters Wanderlei Silva and Matt Serra, and others, the exclusive, family-centric, action-sports carnival featured a Vert Demo with Tony Hawk and his Boom Boom HuckJam cast of top skateboarders and BMX pros: Neal Hendrix, Sergie Ventura, Jesse Fritsch, Elliot Sloan, Kevin Robinson, and Dennis McCoy. Jason Ellis pulled double duty on both the mic and his board while video turntablist Mike Relm plugged into the Jumbotron to present the show’s sounds and images. The festival area included games, food, auctions, and music, plus the Jeep Skate Clinic course that was open to event guests. A special Pledge Drive was also held, raising $53,000 for the Manhattan Bridge Skatepark in New York City.

In Beverly Hills, the Pledge Drive raised $79,000 for a skatepark in Tony’s hometown— the Tierrasanta military community in San Diego where he grew up. After a special musical performance by Social Distortion, Tony and his crew of skateboarding and BMX pros (which included Shaun White, Bucky Lasek, Andy Macdonald, Kevin Staab, John Parker, and Dennis McCoy) took to the ramp for an unforgettable Vert Demo. In the crowd enjoying the action were Anthony Kiedis, David Spade, Perry Farrell, Chris “Big Black” Boykin, Kathy Ireland, Bam Margera, Jamie Lee Curtis, BMX legend Mat Hoffman, Mia Hamm, and others.

Activision Presents Stand Up For Skateparks was made possible through the support of guests and sponsors, including Activision, Jeep, Netjets, T-Mobile, Sidekick, UFC, and Dynacraft, as well as the event’s Benefit Committee: Tony Hawk, Lance Armstrong, Rob Drydek, Christopher “Big Black” Boykin, Jamie Lee Curtis, Mia Hamm, Dana White, Jr., Jon Favreau, Mat Hoffman, Shaun White, Bobby Kotick, Bob McKnight, Scott Greenstein, and Ron Burkle.

Combined, the two events helped raise over $1.5-million to assist the Tony Hawk Foundation in fulfilling its mission to develop free, quality public skateparks in low-income communities. In 2009 Tony Hawk: RIDE! Presents Stand Up For Skateparks returns to Beverly Hills on October 11 before making its Las Vegas debut on November 7. For more information, log on to www.standupforskateparks.org, or call (760) 477-2479.

1. Tony Hawk takes the stage in Beverly Hills with youth from the military community of Tierrasanta to pledge his support for a skatepark there.
2. UFC fighters Wanderlei Silva and Matt Serra at the UFC booth in Bridgehampton.
3. A young fan rests between activities in Bridgehampton.
5. Social Distortion took the stage in Beverly Hills for a special acoustic set.
6. Young guests attacking the Jeep Skate Clinic course in Bridgehampton.
7. Soccer legend Mia Hamm offers a private clinic during the Live Auction in Beverly Hills.
8. Guests in Beverly Hills catching up with Shaun White just before the Vert Demo.
9. Guests took home some terrific giveaways, including plenty of smiles—Bridgehampton.
10. Jon Bon Jovi joins Tony Hawk on the Red Carpet in Bridgehampton.
12. The festival area and Vert Ramp in Beverly Hills.
14. Kevin Robinson enjoying a few moments during the Vert Demo in Bridgehampton.
15. Energized by the action, young fans cheer the riders on during the Vert Demo in Bridgehampton.
"We are very excited to get our park under construction and opened. The award from the Tony Hawk Foundation was tremendous and gave even more impetus to our local support. It legitimized our park with City Council."

—Kevin Schwartzhoff, Athens, Ohio

Athens, Ohio is an impoverished town where 27 percent of adults and 21 percent of children under 18 live in poverty. Faced with such a high number of at-risk children, the community took it upon itself to create a positive outlet for local youth. Despite their economic setback, the town set out to build a quality, first-rate concrete skatepark.

A great deal of hard work, planning, and community collaboration soon followed. The local skaters organized and served on the Skatepark Taskforce. As part of the Taskforce, their duties included evaluating and choosing the professional design team, working with them on the making changes and recommendations through the process.

The Task Force was also in charge of fundraising. In addition to appealing for cash donations, the skaters solicited local businesses and contractors for possible building-material donations for the skatepark to help offset costs. With the help of the local university, they developed a public-information show about the skatepark facility and their fundraising campaign, which aired on local TV and radio.

News spread of the skatepark, and contributions poured in from foundations, businesses, and community members. The city also contributed funds, as did the university. The strong support for the skatepark was evident in the sheer volume and type of letters the Taskforce shared with the Tony Hawk Foundation—letters from the Police Department, County Court, Department of Child Services, and other agencies that all recognized the at-risk elements in their town and the countless benefits of a skatepark.

The community managed to raise 226,000 dollars prior to applying for a Tony Hawk Foundation Grant in 2003, and the THF Board of Directors voted to award Athens a 10,000 dollars grant. Their 350,000-dollar, 17,500-square-foot skatepark opened in 2004.

The Athens Skate Park would not have been able to exist without its core support system.
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. In 1992 he founded the renowned Birdhouse Skateboards brand, which he still owns and operates today. 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.

Pet Hawk, Tony’s sister, has been COO of Tony Hawk, Inc. for over twelve 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. More recently, he was a staff writer on the HBO television series John From Cincinnati, and is currently deputy editor of Sierra magazine.

Kent Dahlgren was the founding Executive Director of the nonprofit Skaters For Public Skateparks. With over two decades of skatepark construction, development, and advocacy to his credit, Kent has become the key spokesperson for skatepark advocacy in the U.S.

Sandy Dusablon is CFO, COO, and General Counsel of American Groove, Inc. Prior to his work there, he practiced law as an entertainment and intellectual property litigator. Sandy is a founding member of the THF Board Of Directors, a skateboard-industry veteran of 24 years, and succeeded Steve Hawk as Executive Director in 2004. Sandy’s financial acumen has proven to be a critical resource in a complex fundraising environment.

Bobby Kotick is Chairman and CEO of Activision, and has been a key supporter of the Foundation since its inception. Activision has been Title Sponsor for the foundation’s annual Stand Up For Skateparks benefit every year since it launched in 2004. Bobby is well known for his charitable giving and involvement in philanthropy nationwide, and serves on a number of nonprofit boards, including the Center for Early Education and as the Vice Chairman of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Jared Levine is a Senior Partner at Morris Yom Bames & 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.

Jamie Thomas is a pro skateboarder who, through determination and hard work, has achieved renowned success in the skateboard world. That success helped him launch a business career that will potentially eclipse his skateboarding. This experience and understanding of the skateboard community makes Jamie an invaluable member of the THF team.

Mike Valley has spent more than 20 years as a pro skateboarder touring all over the world and skating more parks and spots than anyone. He draws from his broad knowledge, experience, and passion for skateboarding in contributing to the Board and promoting the foundation’s mission throughout the far corners of the U.S.

Miki Vuckovich is a founding member of the THF Board Of Directors, a skateboard-industry veteran of 24 years, and succeeded Steve Hawk as Executive Director in 2004. Miki has been skating for 38 years and has fond memories of the classic skateparks of the 1970s.

Erica Zohar is CEO of American Groove, Inc., a Los Angeles-based apparel design firm. She is a member of the Bel Air Chapter of the Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO) and an advisor to the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission (LASEC). Erica is also a board member of the Wertheim Family Foundation and an advisor to several Los Angeles-area charities. Erica works closely with her husband Lior on many projects, including both business ventures and charitable work.

Lior Zohar is CFO, COO, and General Counsel of American Groove, Inc. Prior to his work there, he practiced law as an entertainment and intellectual property litigator. Lior is also President of commercial real estate holding company Stone Canyon Properties, LLC. He and his wife Erica are active with many philanthropic causes, and both have been strong supporters of THF and Stand Up For Skateparks over the years.

“[The skatepark is always crowded after school and on the weekends. We give them snow shovels in the winter to continue to use the facility. 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. Thank you again for allowing us to fulfill our dream of a world-class skating and biking facility.”

—Karen Sargeant, Polson, Montana
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.