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 focusing on the creation of public skateboard parks in low-income communities, and other causes in the U.S. and overseas. The Foundation favors programs that clearly demonstrate that funds received will produce tangible, ongoing, positive results.
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
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, 17% of children and adolescents in the U.S. are obese, a number that has tripled 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.

Based on the latest research, 5.6 million youth participate in skateboarding. That’s a more than 12% increase from 2013. Recognizing this trend, many high schools across the U.S. are responding to the popularity of skateboarding, incorporating skateboarding into their physical education programs, clubs, and after-school curricula, and skateboarding is even being considered for inclusion in the Olympic Games.

There are approximately 3,000 skateparks nationwide, though based on current participation, another 9,000 are needed. Skateparks provide a safe, sanctioned place for skaters to recreate, and they bring these once marginalized athletes together, to share their skills and build a community of like-minded youth.

With 665 of the 560 skateparks Tony Hawk Foundation has awarded grants to since 2002 now open, children are currently making more than 5 million visits annually to these parks and enjoying creative exercise. 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.

4. “Physical Activity and Sedentary Behavior Patterns are Associated with Selected Adolescent Health Risk Behaviors,” PEDIATRICS, Vol. 117 No. 4, April 2006
5. National Sporting Goods Association (nsga.org), 2014
FROM THE FOUNDER

SKATEPARKS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING

When I rolled into the Lanark Skate Plaza this summer, I helped the local kids and dignitaries cut the ribbon, and then skated the park with them for the first time. I could see the joy in their faces—not just for the fun they were having that day, but for the anticipation of years of good times, right there at their own local skatepark.

Nested in the valley north of Los Angeles, Canoga Park is a challenging place for youth to grow up. Especially in the dense housing adjacent to Lanark Park. Living primarily in apartments and without a yard of their own, local residents use the park as their de facto backyard. But until recently, Lanark didn’t offer much in terms of amenities.

In 2011, THF staff began working with local residents and LA city officials to help the skaters create a skatepark at Lanark. We raised funds to launch the project and produce a world-class design by New Line Skateparks that local skaters contributed to. We publicized the project, met with local leaders along the way, and in June 2015 we were there to celebrate the completion of the beautiful street plaza set among the old-growth trees (which provide ample shade).

It took longer than we’d hoped, but more important is that the park was done right. It’s truly something the local skaters worked hard for—campaigning, fundraising, and ultimately designing. It’s their park, in every sense of the word. And it’s something they can really be proud of. I know I certainly enjoyed skating it.

One great effect of public skateparks is the life they bring to underutilized parks (or in the case of Lanark—an underutilized section of the park). And the excitement and anticipation of the new skatepark is infectious and often inspires other great projects. At Lanark, soon after the skatepark project was underway, plans for new playground equipment, a turf soccer field, and other improvements began to circulate. Today, many of those improvements have been completed, and are great complements to the Lanark Skate Plaza.

Lanark Park comes to life every afternoon, as youth congregate after school, and adults join them after work. There’s a lot going on there—baseball, soccer, picnics, playground fun, and of course there’s all the action in and around the skate plaza. If kids aren’t there to skate, they’re there to see their friends ride. And who knows? Maybe after sitting on the sidelines for a while, they’ll pick up a board and give it a try. I’ll bet they have a hard time putting it down once they do.

If you want to experience the heart and soul of Canoga Park, visit Lanark Park. And nowhere in the park will the pulse be quicker than over at the skate plaza, where local youth are rolling and smiling every day. And more and more are joining in on the fun. Skateboarding is infectious like that.

Tony Hawk
FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Since its launch in 2002, the Tony Hawk Foundation has reached communities of all sizes across the U.S. to assist in their efforts to create free, concrete public skateparks. At the time, State laws were modernizing and progressive local leaders were eager to create new skateparks for their growing number of skaters, but they had no idea where to start. Elsewhere, local skaters and their supporters were organizing and eager to pursue a local skatepark, but had no experience navigating City Hall.

For over a decade, the Tony Hawk Foundation has provided this critical link between local skaters and their community leaders to ensure the skaters had a voice in the creation of their local skatepark, and the knowledge to effectively promote their projects throughout the community.

Technical assistance and advocacy training have been the cornerstone of the foundation’s work, as the lessons each group learn along their path are shared back with THF staff in follow-up interviews. This feedback loop informs us and helps to continually improve our procedures and teaching materials.

Another key aspect of THF’s educational services is the army of veteran advocates who’ve been successful with the foundation’s assistance, and who now assist other communities in their region with those skatepark efforts.

"Building the 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, it has a strong following and if you build the skatepark right it will be well received.” —John Turnbull, Bloomington, Indiana

THF has no affiliation with specific designers or builders, and represents the interest of each community we work with. As commercial skatepark firms contact local advocates with the goal of securing contracts, THF remains the advocate’s unbiased expert ally.

In addition to our technical assistance, THF also provides construction grants for skatepark projects in low-income communities in the U.S. To date, the foundation has awarded over $5.4 million to 560 communities in all 50 States. Currently, 465 THF-assisted skateparks have opened, and at any given time about 90-100 projects remain in-process, receiving guidance, advocacy training, and other services from THF staff.

Collectively, the total value of the projects THF has contributed to exceeds $100 million in park and recreation improvements, much of which was raised as a result of communities receiving a THF Skatepark Grant, making the $5.4 million the foundation has contributed highly leveraged.

Internationally, THF supports programming that enriches the lives of children through skateboarding. Our international partner, Skateistan, currently operates four schools in Afghanistan (2), Cambodia, and South Africa that provide educational services to at-risk youth.
No skatepark has ever been built without support, and that support can come in many forms. Every skatepark advocate has met people who “support” the skatepark project in philosophical terms—and that’s appreciated—but there are lots of other ways to help. We know that, like us, you’d love to see more skateparks, but how you support them will depend on your time, capabilities, and resources.

A skatepark is usually the result of a multi-year effort, requiring sustained campaigning by its central proponents. During this time a project can face dozens of obstacles. For some advocates it can feel like a never-ending struggle. A strong show of moral support in the form of a letter or public statement can raise flagging spirits and inject fresh enthusiasm into a project. All of it is important to the advocacy group.

Even an encouraging word can provide the needed strength to get the next task done. Simply recognizing that there’s a skatepark effort in your community is meaningful.

Here are 10 things you can do today to support your local skateboarders and skatepark advocates:

1. Recognize Local Skatepark Efforts
Find out what skatepark projects are happening in your area. While you may not be able to help them directly, knowing that there’s an effort happening nearby may allow you to make a valuable introduction later. If you would like to know about skatepark projects happening in your area, please contact us and we’ll be happy to share with you what we know: contact@tonyhawkfoundation.org

2. Offer Encouragement
When you meet local skaters and advocates who are involved in the project, a kind or encouraging word is a great way to reward them for their volunteerism. They will appreciate it.

3. Like and Share
Most skatepark groups use Facebook to broadcast their activities. You can help amplify their reach by Liking and Sharing their messages via Facebook or any number of social-media outlets. Putting your name behind a post from the skatepark group endorses their efforts to your valuable circle of Friends and Followers. Even more valuable is making a donation (in any amount) to the skatepark fund, and sharing the fact that you made a donation on your social media channels.

4. Write a Letter
A letter of support is a terrific way of substantiating your support for the skatepark project. The advocacy group is probably maintaining a folder of these letters, and they will be useful at critical junctures in the process. You don’t need to load up the letter with facts and figures; a simple statement that you think the skatepark proposal is terrific will let elected officials (and others) know that the skaters aren’t alone.

5. Help Spread the Word
If you are staying up-to-date with the skatepark project’s successes and challenges, it’s helpful to share this information with people who may be less informed. When you have the opportunity to help someone relate to the skatepark project, it builds a base of support. This can be particularly useful in seeking in-kind or service donations.

6. Make Introductions
You may not be able to help directly, but you certainly know someone who can. Introducing a potential donor to the skatepark advocates is as valuable to the project as donating money yourself. Sometimes a donation of goods or services may not seem directly relevant to the skatepark, but these can often be leveraged into valuable cash donations through raffles, event support, and donation premiums.

7. Land Your Services
Your professional skills can be invaluable to a skatepark group. Web sites, marketing, photography, correspondence, graphic design, copywriting, and social media all take time and energy. You may have the ability to provide services that don’t fit a direct need, but perhaps there is commercial value in these that can be auctioned during a fundraising event.

8. Seek Funding
Working directly with the skatepark advocacy group to help them identify potential sources of funding is a huge contribution. Grant writers and individuals with ties to regional industries often become the catalysts for converting the skatepark from an idea into reality.

9. Donate
All donations to a skatepark project, large or small, are appreciated. For every five dollars you donate, that’s five dollars that doesn’t need to come from somewhere else! Don’t have a local skatepark effort to donate to? Then why not donate to the Tony Hawk Foundation and help youth access skateparks and skateboarding programs around the world?

10. Start a New Skatepark Effort!
Starting something new is a big, bold step in involvement! Plot your course by contacting us at www.tonyhawkfoundation.org or visit www.publicskateparkguide.org.

"I can’t stress enough the importance of spending time educating the public about the park and alternative sports in general. Our kids had displays at every public event, with literature and T-shirts for sale. We had many articles in the paper sharing information. This ensured that when the park was actually built we would have community support."

—Sharon Michels, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
PROGRAMS

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, provide them a safe, enjoyable place to ride, and promote healthy, active lifestyles.

THF also supports international programs that enhance the lives of youth through skateboarding.

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

Advocacy Training And Support
Tony Hawk Foundation staff field an average of 100 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.

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

Tony Hawk Foundation grants typically range from $5,000 to $25,000. In 2015, the THF Board Of Directors awarded twelve grants, totaling $145,000. More information about the Tony Hawk Foundation Grant Program is available online at www.tonyhawkfoundation.org.

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 park officials pursuing a new public skatepark. Written (and continually updated) by THF Programs Director Peter Whiteley, the PSDG draws from the collective wisdom of dozens of veteran skatepark advocates. This robust online resource is full of in-depth information and illustrations that cover topics ranging from the skatepark vision, advocacy, fundraising, design, and management.

Previously available only in print form, the Public Skatepark Development Guide can be accessed online at www.publicskateparkguide.org.

Skateistan
The power of skateboarding and its ability to positively change lives is nowhere more evident than in the classrooms and skateparks at Skateistan, a network of schools serving vulnerable youth in some of the most challenged places on Earth—Afghanistan, Cambodia, and South Africa. The Tony Hawk Foundation is proud to partner with Skateistan to support its efforts to reach more children around the world and deliver to them the many benefits of education and skateboarding. Learn more about Skateistan’s incredible programs and success at www.skateistan.org.
“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.”

—Mike Watkins, Milton-Freewater, Oregon
Despite boasting more than 20 skateparks, the City of Los Angeles is among the most underserved regions in the U.S., as measured in skateparks per capita. Over the past fifteen years, the Tony Hawk Foundation has worked with several communities in LA, as well as directly with local leaders and parks officials, to address the need for more skateparks in one of the nation’s largest cities.

In 2011, THF joined skaters and their supporters in the north LA community of Canoga Park to pursue a skatepark there. While neighborhoods in south Los Angeles are more notorious, Canoga Park confronts its youth with their fair share of challenges; crime, drugs, violence, and a host of other issues persist in Canoga Park, despite its being surrounded by more affluent communities. At that year’s Stand Up For Skateparks benefit, Tony Hawk stood with a group of skaters from Canoga Park and championed their effort to build a skatepark, raising $27,500 from guests to get the project started.

In the following weeks, THF helped formally launch the project and brought designers from New Line Skateparks to meet with Canoga Park skaters, who worked with the designers to share ideas for a skate plaza at Lanark Park, the neighborhood’s only community space. The resulting plan depicted a visionary labyrinth of skate lanes that wove through a grove of old-growth trees, which the designers sought to preserve, and which would provide much-needed shade. While the design process was completed fairly swiftly, political and financial hurdles delayed the project until both elements came together in late 2014.

The enthusiasm for the skatepark project, including the visionary design, inspired the community to rally for other improvements. Plans for a new turf soccer field, playground structures, and other improvements to Lanark’s aging infrastructure were soon developed. And just in time for International Go Skateboarding Day, the 14,000-square-foot Lanark Skate Plaza was unveiled with a festive Grand Opening in June, featuring an appearance by Tony Hawk and his Birdhouse Skateboards team, who officially opened the park by inviting everyone to skate with them.

Now a local landmark amidst other new park amenities at Lanark Park, the skate plaza has also been attracting visitors from across LA, as well as tourists from far and wide. But ultimately, it was designed with the input of local skaters, and serves them first and foremost—all day, every day. “We’re very grateful, because not only did the Tony Hawk Foundation raise the money, they involved us in every step of the way,” said local skater Samuel Balmontes. “They asked, ‘What do you want? How do you want it? We want your input.’”

It’s not just the skaters who have come to appreciate the benefits of the skatepark. Friends, siblings, and parents crowd around the park every day to see local youth showing off their skills. It’s clear how excited everyone is that the skaters finally have a safe, sanctioned place to ride. And other than the skaters themselves, no one understands the importance of that more than police officers. After all, they were the ones called in to deal with skaters riding where they weren’t welcome. “You’re always chasing the skaters away,” said LAPD Officer Marc Ferris. “They’re always being told to go somewhere else, like they’re bad kids. They’re not bad kids; they’re just looking for a place to skate. And now they have it, and no one can tell them to leave anymore.”

Canoga Park still has many challenges, but for a growing number of youth, it’s become a place where being active is cool, opportunity abounds, and imaginations soar.
“We were very grateful, because not only did the Tony Hawk Foundation raise the money, they involved us in every step of the way.” —Manuel Belmontes
2002–2015 GRANT RECIPIENTS

As public skateparks grow in popularity, so does the need for funding. In 2015, the Tony Hawk Foundation awarded 12 grants to skatepark projects in 10 states, totaling $145,000.

To-date (2002–2015), THF has awarded over $5.4-million to 560 skatepark projects in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia. THF staff have also provided Advocacy Training and advisory services to more than 2,000 skatepark projects in over 50 countries.

2015 GRANT RECIPIENTS

$25,000
Jersey City, New Jersey (City Of Jersey City)
Charlottesville, Virginia (City Of Charlottesville)

$15,000
Arvin, California (City Of Arvin)

$10,000
San Diego, California (Urban Corps Of San Diego County)
Stevensville, Montana (Montana Skatepark Association)

$5,000
Cassopolis, Michigan (Village Of Cassopolis)
Kansas City, Missouri (Columbus Park Community Council)
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.

To make a donation to the Tony Hawk Foundation, visit www.tonyhawkgarden.org/donate

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.

Combined Federal Campaign
The Tony Hawk Foundation is now included in the Combined Federal Campaign Charity List. Administered by the U.S. Office Of Personnel Management, the CFC allows all Federal civilian, postal, and military personnel to donate directly to THF. For more information, visit www.opm.gov/combined-federal-campaign/, and find THF under charity code 83497.

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 honors or their family, 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 and mission. The Auctions held at our annual benefits and online are popular among our celebrity guests and donors, and we welcome your donation of unique items and experiences valued at $200 dollars or more.

eBay Giving Works
The Tony Hawk Foundation is registered with eBay Giving Works, a service that allows eBay Sellers to give proceeds from their sales to a favorite nonprofit organization. For more information, visit www.givingworks.ebay.com.

AmazonSmile
The Tony Hawk Foundation is a registered charity with AmazonSmile. When you select THF as your charity of choice, Amazon will donate a portion of your purchase price on all eligible items. Sign up today by visiting www.smile.amazon.com/ch/33-0965889.

CrowdRise
The Tony Hawk Foundation is registered on CrowdRise, which is a fundraising platform dedicated exclusively to charitable giving. THF supporters are able to design and activate their own fundraising page on CrowdRise to benefit the Tony Hawk Foundation. Dedicate your birthday or other special event to raising funds for THF through your own campaign! To get started, visit www.crowdrise.com/tonyhawkfoundation

Dinner With Tony And Friends
Join us at one of our annual fundraising benefits in San Francisco, New York, or Los Angeles! These exclusive, intimate dinner events are a great way to support THF and meet Tony, other top-pro athletes, celebrities, and the foundation staff. You’ll also hear the latest about THF’s work and how the foundation is turning your support into community action. Capacity is strictly limited, and these events sell out quickly once announced.

For details about these limited-capacity events, Tony Hawk Foundation Sponsorship opportunities, making a donation to the Tony Hawk Foundation, or other ways you can support the foundation’s work, contact Lily Schwimmer: (760) 477-2479 or lily@tonyhawkfoundation.org

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

Tony Hawk Foundation
7611 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.tonyhawkgarden.org
Tony Hawk, supporters of the Tony Hawk Foundation, celebrities, and an impressive roster of world-class skateboarding and BMX heavyweights came together in October at Green Acres Estate in Beverly Hills for the twelfth-annual Stand Up For Skateparks benefit. The event offered attendees a fun kid-centric day that culminated with performances by The Vandals and DJ Z-Trip and an amazing vert demo on Hawk’s personal thirteen-foot halfpipe.

Tony Hawk’s Stand Up For Skateparks benefit is a family-friendly action-sports carnival that included games, food, and live and silent auctions with unique items and experiences. The more than $830,000 raised at the event supports the Tony Hawk Foundation’s mission to empower youth through the creation of free, quality, public skateparks in low-income communities throughout the U.S., and internationally with programs that enrich the lives of youth through skateboarding.

“Stand Up For Skateparks is a one-of-a-kind experience and I am proud to see it grow each year in support of our important cause,” said Tony Hawk. “Thanks to all of the attendees, donors, sponsors, performers and volunteers, the foundation will be able to further its powerful mission and continue to serve the more than 5 million visitors to these skateparks annually.”

Notable attendees this year included Anthony Kiedis, Perry Farrell, David Spade, Johnny Knoxville, Chuck Liddell, Urijah Faber, Max Greenfield, Dr. Drew Pinsky, Fred Durst, Sarah Chalke, Ethan Suplee, Verne Troyer, Bob Forrest, Joe Mangielo, and Corbin Harris.

Skateboarding and BMX athletes participating in the vert demo included Tony Hawk, Elliot Sloan, Lizzie Armanto, Alliey Bergado, Evan Doherty, Paul-Ruei Raniche, Andy Macdonald, Simon Tabron, Coco Zurita, Kevin Staab, and Mat Hoffman.

This year’s event was co-chaired by Tony Hawk and Eve and Maximillion Cooper. Benefit Committee members included Ron Burkle, Fred Durst, Jon Favreau, Ely and Perry Farrell, Stacey and Allen Gibian, Brian Austin Green, Kirk Hammett, James Hetfield, Mat Hoffman, Bobby Kolick, Tommy Lee, Howie Mandel, Rodney Mullen, Tony Norman, Lyn-Z and Travis Pastrana, Chris Saucedo, Sultan Alsaud, Henry Stupp, Robert Trujillo, Lars Ulrich, Steve Van Doren, Lori and Bill Walton, and DJ Z-Trip.

During a special live auction, attendees were able to bid on a 2016 MINI Countryman Park Lane Edition, customized by DUB Magazine, Roadwire Interiors, and Rockledge Securities, and featuring a one-of-a-kind leather interior.

Stand Up For Skateparks was made possible through the generosity and support of Pandango, Gumball 3000 Foundation, MINI USA, Hawk Clothing, Starkey Hearing Foundation, Vivint Solar, H20BUC, Nixon, Sweetwater, Tony Hawk’s Pro Skater 5, and The Yucaipa Companies.
1. A young guest kickflips during the Birdhouse Skate Clinic.
2. The Vandals took to the stage for a blistering performance.
3. David Spade attending his umpteenth Stand Up For Skateparks event.
4. Johnny Knoxville, Mike Escamilla, and Mat Hoffman find some shade.
5. Tony Hawk and friends from Action Sports Kids Long Beach on the Red Carpet.
6. Tony Hawk perches atop DJ Z-Trip’s rig during the Vert Demo.
7. The Dynamic Duo of Lizzie Armanto and Allysha Bergado arrive on the Red Carpet.
8. Vern Troyer and Tony Hawk on the Red Carpet.
9. There was plenty of food to keep kids fueled throughout the day.
10. Chuck Liddell arrives with his daughter.

Photos by Anthony Acosta and Morgan Ringendahl
Tony Hawk, Founder and President
His long history and success as a professional skateboarder helped Tony pursue a career with worldwide reach. In 1992 he founded the renowned Birdhouse Skateboards brand, which he still owns and operates today.

One of 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 XM satellite radio network, and frequently takes his talent on the road with the Birdhouse Skateboards team. 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, Treasurer
Tony’s sister, Lenore 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. For ten years, Lenore was the Director of the Tony Hawk Fan Club. She responded to requests from fans, parents, and teachers, and coordinated meetings for special-needs fans.

Pat Hawk, Vice President
Tony’s sister, Pat has been a Board member of the Tony Hawk Foundation since inception. As COO of Tony Hawk, Inc., she has played a crucial role in the growth of the company and its affiliates for over eighteen years. She has a strong background in entertainment, music, sports marketing, endorsements, licensing, and management. Pat and her husband, Alan, live in Encinitas, California and have two children currently in college.

Steve Hawk, Secretary
Tony’s brother, Steve, was THF’s founding executive director. He has been a journalist for more than 30 years and is the former editor of Surfer magazine. He has also worked as a staff writer on the HBO television series “John From Cincinnati” and as executive editor of Sierra magazine. He currently works as an editor for the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Gary Arnold
As an experienced leader in the Retail and Entertainment industries, Gary founded Gary L. Arnold Consulting LLC to continue to guide clients to innovate, and to help Artists reach their fans in today’s demanding marketplace. For nearly eighteen years, Gary previously served as the Senior Entertainment Officer and SVP Marketing for Best Buy. Gary was the President of Redline Entertainment, a wholly owned subsidiary of Best Buy Co. Inc., which was an independent record label focusing on new and historic releases by superstar talent. In addition to music, Redline Entertainment focused on the action-sports industry, and was instrumental in bringing action-sports content from Tony Hawk, and many others, to the mass market for the first time.

Tony Conrad
A founder of about.me and Sphere, Tony is also a Partner at True Ventures, an investor in WordPress, MakeBot, Blue Bottle Coffee, Fitbit, Slack, Typekit, Pluralsight, High Fidelity, and an advisor to Noise Pop, a San Francisco organization championing independent music and culture.

Tony grew up in a small Indiana farming community, and has since lived in New York, New Delhi, Jakarta, Chicago, Paris, and San Francisco. Before venturing into high tech, Tony worked a range of jobs, including short stints as a baseball umpire, basketball camp counselor, pharmacy stock person, high-school sports reporter, book-binding glue-machine operator, fraternity janitor, college-newspaper ad salesman, and yogurt merchant, to name a few.

John de Neuville
A keen eye for neighborhoods in transition has led John to success as a real-estate investor and developer in the New York City region. It also lends him particular insight into the challenged communities where THF helps create public skateparks. In his other philanthropic work, John founded vertechchange.org to raise funds and awareness for environmental causes. John started skateboarding when he was six and has no plans to give it up any time soon.

Sandy Dussablain
CFO of Tony Hawk, Inc., Sandy is a longtime contributor and advisor to the Tony Hawk Foundation. As the foundation continues to grow, Sandy’s financial acumen has proven to be a critical resource in a complex fundraising environment.

Ben Harper
Skateboarder-musician Ben Harper plays an eclectic mix of blues, folk, reggae and rock music and is renowned for his live performances and social activism. His worldwide fan base keeps the two-time Grammy Award winner busy touring and recording. But having grown up skateboarding, Ben still finds time to ride—wherever he happens to be.

Bob Kahan
Bob is a partner of the Los Angeles-based business- and entertainment-law firm Liner LLP. His practice includes in excess of 40 years of experience as a transactional-deal lawyer. Bob advises clients in a variety of industries, and practices in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, franchise, licensing, and general corporate and business law. Bob is a critical resource for THF, as the foundation continues to grow and expand both its fundraising and program services.

Erik Lammerding
Erik is Senior Director of Partnerships at GoPro. Before joining GoPro, he co-founded NETWORK, a service helping people discover amazing videos on their mobile devices. Prior, Erik spent 12 years building Apple’s consumer market for third-party apps. His team focused on helping partners develop, deliver, and market the highest quality products on both iOS and Mac. Prior to Apple, he was part of the founding team at FusionOne, an early pioneer in the area of Internet-based services. Erik has three boys, resides in Marin, and graduated from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California.

Sal Masekela
Sal Masekela is the mass-media face of action sports. A veteran host of ESPN’s X Games, with stints on E! Entertainment News and other networks, Sal has hosted more televised skateboarding and action-sports programming than anyone. A native New Yorker, Sal grew up in Southern California’s skate and surf cultures, which nurtured and influenced his love of music and the visual arts. He’s also the Co-Founder of Stoked Mentoring, a nonprofit that seeks to inspire teens. These days, when he isn’t
performing with his band, Alekxam, you can find Sol working on film projects with his production company, UX Entertainment, or hosting NBC's Red Bull Signature Series, through which he continues to see and touch skateboarding in all its facets on every continent.

David Proctor
David is a Principal of Jane Street, a proprietary quantitative trading firm with a unique focus on technology and collaborative problem solving. As Host of the foundation’s annual New York event, he's also been active in fundraising for THF and for skateparks in the New York City area. David and his family live in Westchester, New York, where—among other things—he enjoys skateboarding with his son.

Jim Thiebaud
Jim Thiebaud is a skateboarder—always has been, always will be. He spent several years as a pro, touring the world and skateboarding everything he could, before co-founding and helping build San Francisco’s Deluxe Distribution, purveyors of some of skateboarding’s top brands. As the company’s CEO, Jim splits his time between work, his family in the East Bay, or doing what he’s always done...skating. As a driving force behind several goodwill and charitable causes, most recently The Build Project and Actions REALized, Jim brings decades of experience and dedication to skateboarding to his role on the THF Board Of Directors.

Jamie Thomas
Jamie Thomas is a skateboarding icon and industry leader. He has been a professional skateboarder for over 20 years and is the President and founder of Zero Skateboards. Jamie has been recognized in the business community for his entrepreneurial success, and his experience and broad perspective helps bridge the gap between skateboarding and the boardroom.

David Ulevitch
David is the founder and CEO of OpenDNS. In 2005, he launched OpenDNS with the goal of delivering a safer and faster Internet experience. Today the service protects a global audience of more than 30-million people, including those at many of the largest companies in the world. A noted and often-cited Internet and security expert, David has a degree in Anthropology from Washington University in St. Louis, which turned out to be much more useful than he expected. He grew up in the sunny beach community of Del Mar, California, which didn’t make him nearly as good of a surfer or skater as it should have.

Staff
Miki Vuckovich, Executive Director
As Executive Director, Miki is responsible for the overall operations of the Tony Hawk Foundation.

Miki Vuckovich was a founding member of the THF Board Of Directors in 2001 and served until 2008. In March 2004 she took over for outgoing Executive Director Steve Hawk, who remains a permanent member of the Board Of Directors. Formerly a producer for the CNN Video series of skateboarding documentary films, Editor of TransWorld SKATEboarding magazine, and Senior Editor for TransWorld SKATEboarding magazine, Miki's 30 years in skateboarding includes visits to many of the famed California skateparks of the late 70s, and skateboarding communities the world over.

Miki graduated from the University Of California San Diego with a B.A. in Writing.

Kim Novick, Development Director
As Development Director, Kim is responsible for the foundation’s fundraising activities.

Kim has more than 20 years of nonprofit experience in high-profile fundraising, campaign and major-donor development, grant writing, membership outreach, and cultivation initiatives. Kim began her work with the Tony Hawk Foundation as a founding board member in 2001, helping the organization establish itself, and joined the staff as Development Director in 2004. Kim has served in executive leadership positions for a variety of nonprofit organizations.

Kim graduated from UCLA with a B.A. in English Literature, along with an M.A. in nonprofit business management and community service from Brandeis University in Boston, Massachusetts.

Peter Whitney, Programs Director
In his role as Programs Director, Peter is responsible for designing and implementing all skatepark programs at THF.

After more than a decade of work promoting skatepark development, most notably as Co-Founder and former Director of Skaters For Public Skateparks, Peter brings tremendous experience and perspective to THF. In 2005, he led his hometown of Tacoma, Washington through the process of developing a system of public skateparks, converting highrise urban parks into pedestrian-friendly skate areas. The Tacoma experience has become a model that continues to inspire community leaders across the U.S.

Peter studied at Evergreen State College in Washington, and completed his coursework in Design at the School Of Visual Concepts in Seattle.

Lily Schwimmer, Strategic Partnerships
As THF's Strategic Partnerships officer, Lily Schwimmer develops special projects with key donors and supporters, and oversees all event-based fundraising for THF, including the annual Stand Up For Skateparks benefit.

Lily was THF's first Intern in 2008. After completing her studies, she worked for AEG Live in Las Vegas, whose primary venue was The Joint inside The Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and The Colosseum at Caesars Palace. Lily was responsible for assisting with the booking of these venues for AEG Live, and for over five years helped manage operations at The Buck Invitational and Farmers Insurance Open PGA Golf Tournament.

Lily completed her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Oregon and her MBA in Sports Management from San Diego State University.

Steven Perelman, Corporate Partnerships
With over 20 years of experience in action sports and music, Steven has enjoyed the opportunity to work with the best in the industry. He's traveled the world with ASA Entertainment, producing the Mobile Skatepark Series for CBS, and managed corporate hospitality for ESPN's X Games. And for the past eight years has managed corporate partnerships, events, endorsements, and licensing for both Tony Hawk and the Tony Hawk Foundation.

Carly Whitman, Administrative Assistant
Carly’s involvement with the foundation started in 2013 as a THF intern. She is currently a full-time student studying Communication, with an emphasis in Leadership at San Diego State University.

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SUCCESS STORY

STEVENSVILLE, MONTANA

You only need two things to make a public skatepark: Community support and funding.

Larger cities don’t have as much difficulty raising skatepark funds, but land is hard to find and community resistance can be significant. Smaller towns, on the other hand, don’t often struggle to earn community support for the skatepark, but can languish when it comes time to raising the money.

Stevensville has just 1,800 residents and is far off the beaten path. The average household income in Stevensville is about two-thirds of the rest of Montana. Only a handful of the town’s roads even have sidewalks. Until recently, the only recreation facility was a sports field on the north end of town.

So when resident Ray Smith was approached by a local 14-year-old skater with an idea, Ray encouraged him to bring it to the Parks Council. Ray continued to help guide the youth’s proposal for a public skatepark through the city process and began fundraising even before the project was approved (with the unwavering optimism of a true advocate, he knew it would be).

With Ray’s leadership, the skaters went to work. They offered their services doing yard work, hauling, sweeping parking lots—whatever needed to be done. Some people referred to this pack of helpful skaters as a “dream team.”

Against all odds, the park was funded and built within two years. Since its opening, the park has been a gathering place for the entire community. According to Ray, the skatepark “has truly changed lives.”

“The kids are showing growth,” he said. “The ones that couldn’t skate before are now flying out of the bowl. Everyone goes to the skatepark. Some kids just go to slide down the bowl.”

Clearly, for Stevensville residents, the skatepark has become the place to be. Over time, that community cohesion will result in better connections—Stevensville youth have a place to go, to get their exercise, and to challenge themselves. This is how healthy communities are built.

Ray Smith attributes much of the project’s momentum to the Tony Hawk Foundation grant. “Tony Hawk’s name recognition put us in an arena that made it hard to fail,” he said. “It gave our project strength.”

The Stevensville skatepark is such a success that a larger, neighboring town is now enthusiastically pursuing its own skatepark. And Ray Smith is involved in that one, too, of course.

“Tony Hawk’s name recognition put us in an arena that made it hard to fail. It gave our project strength.” —Ray Smith
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One of the Tony Hawk Foundation’s longest running projects, the Lynch Family Skatepark in Boston, finally opened this year. The idea was first proposed in 1997, really got moving in 2003, and was officially in development for more than twelve years. The delays are too numerous to list, but are typical of grand projects in large cities—site challenges and large construction projects in the vicinity, as well as general economic challenges brought on by the recession, to name a few. In spite of all that, local advocates remained diligent and engaged.

The process for creating any public skatepark starts and ends with the local skateboarding community. It starts when a skater steps up to the podium at their city council or parks department meeting and ends when the ribbon is cut at the grand opening. The average duration of a skatepark effort is about three years. During that time, skaters and their supporters are fundraising, strengthening their relationships with the community, and engaging with people and organizations of all sizes. By the end of the process, the advocates are on first-name terms with local leaders and are known around town as the “skatepark people.”

That’s just the beginning of the benefits. After the skatepark opens, those advocates bring their newly-developed leadership skills to the skatepark, where they infuse the space with a sense of pride, accomplishment, and ownership. The skatepark process has taught them that if it’s worth having in one’s life, it’s worth working for, and that a community that works together can share the benefits. This is the lasting lesson of skatepark advocacy.

Even when those three years stretch out to twelve, these characteristics remain true. In Boston, just as in the other more than 500 public skateparks that THF has helped fund, local skaters are enjoying and respecting their skatepark and all who visit.

At the Lynch Family Skatepark grand opening, nobody characterized the promise the new facility held for its users quite as well as legendary skateboarder Tony Alva. “This is a sanctuary,” he said. “It’s not just for skateboarders. It’s for the entire community.”

At 36,000 square feet, this is Boston’s flagship skatepark. And like all other THF-funded skateparks, it’s free to the public. The Lynch Family Skatepark builds on the common practice of locating recreational facilities under freeway overpasses so that they may be used in inclement weather. More importantly, it’s already established itself as the region’s premier “must visit” facility for skaters, and serves as a home-away-from-home for hundreds of local youth.

“Boston waited much longer than most for their skatepark,” said pro skater and Boston native Andy Macdonald. “But thanks to help from the Tony Hawk Foundation, they finally have a world class park that will do wonders—not just for the skaters, but the community as a whole.”

It took twelve years to build the 40,000-square-foot Lynch Family Skatepark. But the rewards were already being realized the moment it opened to the public.
“The unique thing about this whole project is that it was initiated by the kids. What they’ve learned out of this is 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
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 focusing on the creation of public skateboarding parks in low-income communities, and other causes in the US and overseas. The Foundation favors programs that clearly demonstrate that funds received will produce tangible, ongoing, positive results.

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Cover: The effort to create a skate plaza at Lanark Park in the Los Angeles community of Canoga Park was initiated by the community in 2011 with the help of the Tony Hawk Foundation. In 2015, Tony Hawk and the Birdhouse Skateboards team arrived to help locals celebrate the Grand Opening of their new world-class skatepark. Inset: Tony joins skaters and local leaders to cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of the Lanark Skate Plaza. Back: Tony Hawk congratulates local skaters in Canoga Park on their new skate plaza. (Photos by Jody Morris)