

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Palouse Skate Park Committee

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Palouse, Washington-- Palouse Skatepark is pleased to announce that we are a Spring 2016 recipient of a \$15,000 Tony Hawk Foundation grant! From the organization's website, "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 US and overseas. The Foundation favors programs that clearly demonstrate that funds received will produce tangible, ongoing, positive results." Over the past 14 plus years, the Palouse Skatepark project has raised over \$57,000.00 before receiving this welcome grant. Nearly 75% of this total has come from local fundraising activities in Palouse, with the rest coming from private donors. The end result of these dollars will be the completion of a privately maintained and insured skatepark facility that will be free to users and open to the public.

Much work remains to be done on the project, and volunteer help is still much appreciated. Even after receipt of the grant, a \$6,000 funding gap must be closed to finish construction of the park. Spring fundraisers will include a semiformal dance, "Sweet Shoppe Hop," on April 16th at the Palouse Grange Hall, which will be open to families and children of pre-school age and older. A "thermometer" fund drive is also planned for direct-giving to aid the completion of the project. More information, as well as how to make a donation to the project and to view design plans, can be found at www.palouseskatepark.com or by visiting the Palouse Skatepark on Facebook.

Palouse Skatepark Board member Connie Newman says "There has been widespread support, but this award is a true badge of honor for our building efforts, as most people who don't even know much about skateboarding know who Tony Hawk is." Board member Kari Watkins echoes Connie's sentiments and adds that "this gift is a major boost to our project funding and it enthusiastically legitimizes the project!"

Fundraising efforts will continue for the Palouse Skatepark, as landscaping around the skatepark is needed, and annual taxes and insurance costs will be incurred. There is also a planned project for the upper plateau space directly above the skatepark, that was included in the land gift from Tony Kettel. This community garden project has also applied for grant funding and may be seeking donations soon to begin developing their vision for phase one development of the 16,000 square foot space that borders the north side of the skatepark.

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