

2011 Community Betterment Award Nomination Form



PIKE COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce
Making Pike County a great place to live, work and visit.

The Pike County Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for its 3rd annual
Community Betterment Award

This award is intended to recognize the contribution of an individual, or group of individuals whose vision and actions have bettered the city or village in which they live.

The Community Betterment Award will be presented at the Chamber's Annual Dinner Meeting to be held Thursday, March 29th at Collver Family Winery in Barry.

What contributions has this person or group made to merit this award?

(Please print)

Name of person or group: THE UNION DIFFERENCE - c/o VINCE SHAW
Community: PITTSFIELD IL - UNION DIFFERENCE - QUINCY
Job responsibility or role in the community: 648 MAIN E
CONSTRUCTING PIKE COUNTY SKATE PARK (217)-725-6965

What contributions has this person or group made to the community in which he or she (or they) live?

THE UNION DIFFERENCE DONATED LABOR AND MATERIALS TO HAULAWAY OLD CONCRETE, BRINGING IN 40+ LOADS OF FILL 2+ LOADS BASE ROCK, AND MANY, MANY HOURS OF LABOR - (15 men a day for seven days) PROVIDED EQUIPMENT

How have these actions benefited the community and/or the county?
ORGANIZING AND COORDINATING THE PROJECT INCLUDING

PROVIDING LOOKING FOR OUT OF TOWN VOLUNTEERS

Nomination submitted by: SHAY DRUMMOND

Your Phone: 217-316-2795 email: sdrummond@co.adams.il.us
217-222-8440 X148

Please return this form by Friday, March 16, 2012 to:

Pike County Chamber of Commerce

224 W. Washington, PO Box 283 Pittsfield, IL 62363

or the form can be **faxed** to 217-285-5251 or **emailed** to info@pikeil.org

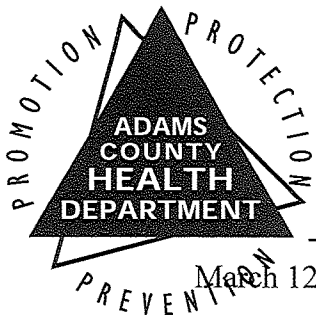
Our Mission:

To advocate for our members and enhance the overall quality of life in the county.

Our Vision:

We are the front door to Pike County for people and businesses, and a trusted source of information, resources, and advocacy.

For more information please call Kaye Iftner, Executive Director, Pike County Chamber of Commerce at 217-285-2971.



330 Vermont • Quincy, Illinois 62301 • Phone 217-222-8440 • Fax 217-222-8508

March 12, 2012

Dear Pike County Chamber of Commerce,

I would like to nominate The Union Difference organization for the Community Betterment Award.

The Union Difference helped to make the dream of a skate park for the youth of Pike County a reality. By agreeing to take on this project the Union Difference provides material and service donations.

Donations from the Union difference included hauling away old concrete from the horseshoe pits and preparing the area. This included hauling in 40+ loads of fill dirt and 20+ loads of base rock and several loads of topsoil. Union Difference member provided many, many hours of labor (upwards of 15 men for 7 days). The Union Difference provided equipment needed to prepare and build the park. In addition, the Union Difference organized and coordinated all aspects of the build utilizing skilled, trained staff to build a quality part. Then Union Difference even provided lodging for out of town union members to come and volunteer to work on the project.

As a result Pittsfield has a top notch skate park. This park is providing wonderful recreational opportunities for the youth of Pike County. As a public health nurse it is a positive change from the usual video games and television. As we continue to battle an epidemic of youth obesity these children now have the alternative and opportunity to improve their coordination, strength, and cardiovascular health and engage in a positive activity. This is also a place for families to spend quality time together.

I think that the Union Difference fully deserves the Community Betterment Award as an outstanding example of volunteers working to better the community.

Attached is a press release from the Pike County Press and a letter from the organizer of the Pike County Skaters, Michele Westmass.

Please let me know if you need any additional information,

Shay L. Drummond RN BSN
Adams County Health Department
330 Vermont
Quincy, IL 62301
217-222-8440 x148

“Public Health is Public Wealth”

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



Pike County Skaters

An organization of Pike County youth
and adults who support them

Michele Westmaas, President
308 W. Jefferson
Pittsfield, IL 62363
217-473-6450
momonamission@frontier.com

December 1, 2011

Thank you!!

*Without your contribution, Pike County Skate Park would not be a reality!
Because of you, the reality is even better than we had hoped and dreamed.*

In July 2007, Pike County Skaters was born when an informal group of skaters and adults who supported them met in my living room to discuss our desire for a skate park in Pike County.

In September 2007, we developed the following goals:

- To develop a public skate park in Pike County.
- To include youth skaters in development and design of the park.
- To obtain property for the project from a city, the county, or another organization or individual.
- To demonstrate strong grassroots community support for the park in order to obtain grant funding to build the park.
- To include the community and local organizations in the project, such as service organizations, government, schools, churches, and law enforcement.

We achieved all of those!

At the same time, we developed the following expected outcomes:

- A skate park will provide much needed recreational opportunities for the young people of Pike County, an active alternative to television and video games. Skateboarding builds stamina, strength, coordination, balance, and perseverance as youth practice hours on end to achieve the next trick. Skateboarding is an individual sport that promotes cooperation as youth coach and encourage each other.
- A skate park bridges the gap between the county's youth and adult community leaders. When a park is built, the youth feel appreciated, valued, and heard by community officials and law enforcement.
- A skate park is a "destination park" that will bring people in from outside Pike County.
- A skate park will appeal to young families considering relocating to Pike County.
- Because younger children will have an opportunity to practice their skills, the number of skaters in Pike County is likely to grow after a skate park is built ensuring the park's use for generations to come.
- New business opportunities may be encouraged such as a skate shop, safety equipment rental, and skate lessons.

- Skateboarding provides a non-competitive activity for youth of all ages and is a constructive activity for at-risk youth. According to the Tony Hawk Foundation, "The easy answer is that they [skate parks] provide a place for kids who aren't attracted to traditional team sports a place to go and express themselves in an individual and athletic manner. Getting kids, particularly at-risk kids, involved in a personal and esteem-building activity like skateboarding helps them build the confidence to do well in other aspects of their lives."

In the first weekend of the park being open, most of these outcomes were realized!

On November 6, 2011, we celebrated Opening Day at the park.

- Nearly 50 skaters showed their skills at the Opening Day Celebration. The skaters requested and participated in spontaneous and informal competitions, showing their enthusiasm, cooperation, self-regulation, and support of one another.
- Skaters witnessed Mayor Hayden, the local DARE officer, members of the Park Board, City Council, Main Street, and Chamber of Commerce all come to support the park and celebrate the opening with the official ribbon cutting. The adults witnessed the skaters' enthusiasm and appreciation for the park.
- Skaters and families came from Quincy, Jacksonville, Springfield, and Louisiana as well as Pike County communities.
- The age of the skaters ranged from kindergarten age to young adult. One 90-year-old Pike County resident joined the celebration and balanced on a skate board!
- A skate shop from outside the county is interested in partnering with a local business to serve the skaters in Pike County.

We will never be able to determine the actual value of all of the material, monetary and service donations that made the park possible.

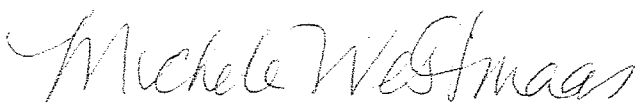
Donations for the build included hauling away old concrete from horseshoe pits; providing and hauling in 40+ loads of fill, 20+ loads of base rock, and several loads of topsoil; providing many, many hours of labor (as many as 15 men a day for 7 days); providing equipment; organizing and coordinating all aspects of the build; and providing lodging for out-of-town union members.

What we do know is that our limited budget of \$25,000 bought a park that is priceless!

Beyond the tangible outcome of the park itself, we appreciate the intangible outcomes that result from such a huge community effort. Skaters and parents from the surrounding areas have asked how they can replicate our success in their own communities.

*Our gratitude is beyond measure and beyond adequate expression.
Thank you!*

With sincere appreciation,



Michele Westmaas
Pike County Skaters, President



PIKE COUNTY SKATE PARK

Fact Sheet

Location:	Lower King Park, Pittsfield, IL
Dimensions:	20' x 90'
Opening Day:	November 6, 2011
Pike County Skaters Group:	Michele Westmaas, President, 217-473-6450
Fiscal Sponsor:	Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike County, Patricia McIntosh, Executive Director, 217-285-6080
Local Project Manager:	Scott Hill, 217-430-4703
Labor (donated):	The Union Difference Vince Shaw, Operators Local 9065, 217-725-6965 Cement Finishers Local 18 Laborers Local 231 Iron Workers Local 46 Carpenters Local 904 Operating Engineers 965

Many construction labor unions throughout the area are members of the Union Difference. The group donated the labor and much of the equipment necessary to construct the Pike County Skate Park. The Union Difference is a coalition of labor organizations based in Quincy, Illinois including labor organizations located throughout the tri-state area. The main purpose of the Union Difference is to promote and educate the general public and all workers about workplace rights, public policy questions, the structure and benefits of unionization and the general enhancement of the common good.

Skate Park Design and Elements:	Who Skates, Kennebunkport, Maine Tom Noble, President, 207-632-7602
Major Project Funders:	City of Pittsfield: \$10,000 Health and Wellness Foundation of Pike Co.: \$3000 Tony Hawk Foundation: \$5000 Deupree Family Foundation: \$4000 Two Rivers Jeep Club: \$2427 Have a Heart Fundraiser: \$2512

Pike County Skatepark officially open to skaters

Posted: 11.07.2011 at 12:15 AM

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PITTSFIELD, ILL. -- Dozens of skaters rolled into Lower King Park in Pittsfield Sunday afternoon to try out it's newest addition, the grand opening of Pike County's first skatepark.

The top of the line skate ramps were constructed by members of the Union Difference. About thirty union workers in all came from across the Tri-States to volunteer their labor for this project.

From conception to completion, this skateboard park has been in the works for four years.

"Where we got stuck was the actual labor to built the park. We kind of sot on that for awhile, struggling with where we were going to get that from. The Union Difference came to us in the spring, offering to provide the labor to build the park," said Michele Westmaas, the president of Pike County Skaters.

The community wants to thank all of those who donated their time and money to make this park a reality, including the Union Difference, the Tony Hawk Foundation and the city of Pittsfield.

