



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SKATEBOARD OUTREACH TO CHALLENGE YOUTH WITH CHOICES**  
**Non-profits unite with legendary skateboard pros to curb drug use and violence**

BAKERSFIELD, CA, October 8, 2008 – **The Shindig, Stay Focused,** and **Garden Pathways** are uniting to sponsor “**Grind Away,**” a **free community-wide skateboard outreach to curb drug use and violence.** The event, open to the public, will be held **Saturday, October 18 (2:00-9:00 p.m.)** and **Sunday, October 19 (2:00-7:00 p.m.)** at “**The Gate**” venue of Garden Pathways and The Garden Community Church (2010 “O” Street between 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Streets). The outreach features the skating demos of legendary world champion skateboard pros **Christian Hosoi, Jay Adams, Dennis Martinez,** and **Brian Sumner,** along with the local outdoor premier of the anti-drug movie, **D.O.P.E. (Death or Prison Eventually),** and a wide array of skateboard competitions.

In support of the Red Ribbon Week national campaign that brings awareness to drug and violence issues, this event, co-sponsored by the City of Bakersfield Recreation & Parks Department, will challenge hundreds of youth to make positive choices for their future. On Saturday, October 18, 2:00-9:00 p.m., the pro skaters will share their stories, interspersed between skating demos, skateboard competitions, and open public skating. Pros will be available for media interviews beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Hosoi will be available only on Sunday.

The movie **D.O.P.E. (Death or Prison Eventually)** makes its local outdoor premier on Saturday at 7:30 p.m. The edgy documentary chronicles the rise, fall, and redemption of four of skateboarding’s most influential players, Christian Hosoi, Jay Adams, Dennis Martinez, and Bruce Logan. The film, narrated by actor Danny Trejo, includes rare archival skateboard footage and music by Switchfoot, P.O.D., and Arrested Development. Without being preachy, the film carries a message to combat the allure of drugs.

“Grind Away” continues on Sunday, October 19, 2:00-7:00 p.m. with skateboard competition finals, open public skating, and a skate shop vs. skate shop competition featuring Bakersfield’s best sponsored skateboarders.

**Christian Hosoi,** along with chief rival Tony Hawk, rose to the top of vert skating in the 1980s. Known for his aerial stunts and having held the world record, Hosoi invented the renowned “Christ Air” and “Rocket Air” tricks. Hosoi is a founder of The Uprising, a cutting-edge skateboard ministry that reaches out to the skating community through large arena festivals.

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**Jay Adams**, one of the original Z-Boys, the Dogtown-based Zephyr Skate Team, was a leading figure in the vertical skateboarding scene of the 1970s. His innovations helped to shape modern skateboarding – combining an aggressive style from the streets with maneuvers inspired by surfers. Adams’ skateboarding career has been the subject of two major films, “Lords of Dogtown” and the award-winning documentary, “Dogtown and Z-Boys.”

Just one year after turning pro, **Dennis Martinez** was crowned the top freestyle skater in the world – winning the World Cup Skateboarding Championship in 1978, as well as the U.S. Skateboarding Championship. Today he tours the world, speaking against the lifestyle and the drugs that caused his meteoric rise as a “skateboard great” to plummet.

British-born skateboard prodigy, **Brian Sumner** went pro after only two years on a board. He has traveled the United States extensively on Tony Hawks Gigantic Skatepark Tour. Sumner appears in numerous skate videos, movies, and music videos. He collaborates with Christian Hosoi in The Uprising.

The partnering 501(c)(3) non-profits, The Shindig, Stay Focused, and Garden Pathways, are recognized for results-oriented initiatives in community transformation. The mentoring programs of Stay Focused and Garden Pathways positively engage the involvement of at-risk and marginalized youth and their families through relevant means. Since 2005, The Shindig, a program of The Garden Community Church, has been hosting a free full-skatepark every Thursday, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at The Gate. The program also offers tutoring to skaters on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend the free “Grind Away” event and to unite in an ongoing effort to help curb drug use and violence among the youth of our community. All ages are welcomed. Skaters under age 18 must have a liability release form signed by a parent or guardian.

### **CONTACT:**

For more information about “Grind Away” or the mentoring programs contact:

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