

TENACITY GAMES

How Tonia Farman Is Fighting The Good Fight

If you've ever been curious about the strength of the human spirit, take a good look at Tonia Farman. The ultimate go-getter, the epitome of spinning negatives into positives, she's done plenty to cement herself as one of Hood River's most important and community-crafting natives (and she can rip on water and land, too).

When Tonia's brother, Scott, passed away from leukemia in 2007, she felt the need to do something in his honor. That was the year she founded Kiteboarding for Cancer, a Hood River-based competition that raised over \$30,000 in donations after just a couple months' planning. Not a bad showing.

Today, that event is known as the Tenacity Games. It includes everything from standup paddle boarding to skateboarding, with kayaking and windsurfing joining the mix in 2012. This is a gorge-style fundraiser: extravagant galas, mom's bake sale, and silent auctions work about as well here as suits and ties. There are no winners, either – just a community coming together to help out a cause. With help from hometown sponsors and volunteers, the Tenacity Games draw a crowd to the Columbia every August. And every August, they keep on getting bigger.

But the games aren't simply an opportunity for local residents (and some ambitious out-of-towners) to get together and compete to raise money for cancer research. They're also a hell of an example of Tonia's commitment to making a difference, and of this town's incredibly collective way of doing things. Everyone helps out, and everyone benefits. Suffice it to say, Tonia and her Hood River neighbors make a good team. ♡

