



By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

Two skateboarders rolled down West 6th Street in Imperial early Friday morning at the beginning of a 340-mile trip to Lincoln.

Former resident Mike Smith and a crew were initiating the third annual Skate The State, which is a fund raiser for Skate For Change.

Skate For Change is a division of Smith's The Bay in Lincoln, an indoor skate park. Skate For Change empowers youth to use skateboarding as a vessel for assisting the homeless and less fortunate in their communities.

Smith and his group plan to skateboard north on Highway 61 to Ogallala, and then east to Lincoln via US 30E and 34E, arriving in Lincoln June 27.

He plans to skateboard about 40-50 miles per day, stopping in larger cities to educate Nebraskans about Skate For Change.

For the past two years Skate The State has been the major means of fundraising for Smith's non-profit organizations.

Those interested in donating may do so directly to Skate For Change via their PayPal. More information may be found at skatethestate.com.