

Dear Friends:

The Red Tail Project is dedicated to telling the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, the World War II fighter group composed of African-American pilots and support personnel who fought discrimination and prejudice in order to serve their country.

Their remarkable story of vision, hope, hard work and discipline proved that individuals can accomplish the remarkable, regardless the obstacles, and remains as relevant today as it did sixty years ago.

The Tuskegee Airmen trained, flew, and ultimately fought, their way to a record unequalled by any other fighter group in WWII. Flying aircraft painted with iconic red tails, their skill in protecting bomber groups is the stuff of legend. 450 African-American pilots served overseas during the war. Sixty-six were killed in combat and another 32 taken prisoner.

After the war many Airmen returned not to a heroes welcome but to the same prejudice they had experienced before putting their lives on the line for their country. Undaunted, the Airmen continued to excel. Becoming doctors, lawyers, successful businessmen or rose through the ranks of the military. They told their stories to inspire others to follow their individual dreams and succeed.

The Red Tail Project, part of the Commemorative Air Force, was founded to keep spreading that message and exposing people to the extraordinary gentlemen who set such an inspirational example. Through the restoration of a P-51C Mustang christened "Tuskegee Airmen" the project did just what project leader Don Hinz had dreamed - "Inspire youth and tell the story of the Tuskegee Airmen all across America" - as the airplane became a major draw for people at air shows and other venues.

In the four years that the "Tuskegee Airmen" flew it generated tremendous media attention, creating an estimated 40 million exposures for the compelling story of the Tuskegee Airmen. Then, on Memorial Day Weekend 2004 an engine failure caused an accident that cost Don Hinz his life and seriously damaged the airplane.

In memorializing Don's accomplishments, Brian Smith, President of Tuskegee Airmen International (TAI), remarked, "In four years, Don Hinz and the Red Tail did more to tell the story of the Tuskegee Airmen than our organization has done in all the years since the end of WWII."

In addition to putting this remarkable airplane in the air again, we plan to create a traveling museum in the form of an exhibition trailer that tells the Tuskegee Airmen's stories. This museum will be focused toward youth - specifically, at-risk youth. The traveling museum will make the Red Tail Project the center of attention at traditional aviation events but will also open doors to other venues like shopping malls, fairs, motorsports events, and, most importantly, schools.

There is a real sense of urgency in what we are doing. This story is best told by those who lived it, but they are now in their 70s and 80s. There are only an estimated 200 Tuskegee Airmen still alive.

The Red Tail Project is embarking on an ambitious effort to raise the funds necessary to get the airplane flying and complete the traveling museum to tell the Tuskegee Airmen's story for years to come.

Seeding dreams and inspiring passion is rewarding work. The challenge is that it is expensive.

We need your help.

Sincerely,



Doug Rozendaal  
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[www.redtail.org](http://www.redtail.org)