## making a difference

## Making the game more affordable and accessible

he United States Golf Association (USGA) is promoting a good cause through golf. Through its grants initiative, the USGA empowers organizations that introduce golf to individuals—specifically economically disadvantaged youth and those with disabilities—who otherwise would not have the opportunity. Grant awards are directed to instructional programs and the construction of facilities that make the game more affordable and accessible.

During 2003, \$5.75 million was awarded to 222 organizations that demonstrate quality operations and fiscal planning. These programs plan to reach more than 200,000 people with disabilities with the assistance of USGA grants. Since 1997,

## Number of grants by year 1997-2003



when the USGA committed \$50 million throughout 10 years to this grants initiative, more than \$38 million has been awarded throughout the nation aimed at teaching individuals about golf and the life lessons inherent in the game.

The USGA assists supported programs with public relations, obtaining equipment and fiscal planning. Grant recipients receive in-kind donations of USGA merchandise for fundraising and rules publications for use in educating their participants. In 2003, the USGA hosted the first Pikes Peak Summit—a gathering of 300 grant recipients that helped promote and exchange best practices for operating quality golf programs and facilities.

In 2003, the USGA conducted a survey of past grant recipients to assess the level of success they've achieved throughout the past seven years. Many of the more than 600 organizations that have received grants from the USGA responded. The results showed these programs improved in areas such as fundraising, participant reach, program length and providing increased amounts of golf course access at lower costs.

Below are charts that show the numbers of grants, the amount of annual awards and grant distribution.

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