

United States of America

William E. Simon, former United States Olympic Committee President and US Secretary of the Treasury, has established a fund that will assist up-and-coming US athletes with their training. The William E. Simon Foundation, a 31-year-old philanthropic organization, has donated US\$ 1 million to create the William E. Simon Endowment for the Support of Athletes. The endowment will aid athletes to continue training and competing in their respective sports when a lack of needed funds might otherwise force them to give up their Olympic dreams. 'No words could express the love I feel

for the US Olympic Movement and which I have so proudly served for more than three decades', said Simon. 'However this gift from the Simon family is one way of saying 'Thank you' to the US Olympic Committee. Thank you for the rare privilege of serving a cause of such high, noble purpose; one that, indeed, has never stopped striving, for 100 years now, to build character among our young men and women, and strengthen peace and understanding among nations'. The programme will be administered by the USOC's Athlete Support Division, but all awards will be made by the endowment's board of trustees that will award a percentage of total return on the original endowment awarded

each year. The prospective athlete would be someone who has not quite reached the elite status of his or her sport but has shown through past competitions an ability and potential to reach the elite rank. 'With this exciting, new partnership, our family joins the USOC in reaching out to aspiring athletes, from the streets of our cities to the towns of rural American, who dream of Olympic glory' added Simon. '... All athletes who participate in this programme will benefit, whether or not they ultimately achieve their Olympic dreams. All will become better citizens, better human beings, and the discipline, sacrifice and commitment gained by participating in rigorous athletic training - in short, the character-

building dimension of meeting this challenge - will follow them throughout their lives'.

Simon began his USOC association as the National Fund Raising Chairman from 1969 to 1972 before becoming a member of the Executive Board. He was the USOC Treasurer and then served as USOC President from 1981 to 1984. Since that time he has been on the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee as well as the US Olympic Foundation Board of Trustees. Simon was inducted into the United States Olympic Hall of Fame in 1991 and one of the two new athlete residence halls at the US Olympic Complex in Colorado Springs bears his name.