

## OLYMPIC SOLIDARITY

The aim of all of Olympic Solidarity's efforts in sports promotion and development is to encourage athletes' participation in the largest sports festival for young people in the world: the Olympic Games.

In order to achieve this goal, Olympic Solidarity has developed numerous programmes for the NOCs that need them most. Two of these programmes are specially devised for the NOCs' preparation for and participation in the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City. These programmes strengthen Olympic Solidarity's commitment to the athletes, through their respective NOCs, and allow them to improve their level and assist with their qualification for the Games in Salt Lake City. Indeed, thanks to this "à la carte" funding, the NOCs can organise training camps, finance travel to competition venues, take care of coaches' expenses and buy sports equipment for their athletes. Olympic Solidarity has set aside a budget of USD 1,800,000 for this programme, divided between 58 NOCs and 793 athletes.

Furthermore, the NOCs whose athletes are qualified for the Games in Salt Lake City benefit from various subsidies for logistical costs, transport for a certain number of athletes and officials, and an allowance for their contribution to the success of the Games. The budget set aside for this programme for the XIX Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City in 2002 is USD 5,440,000.

### Janica Kostelic, Olympic scholarship-holder

Janica Kostelic's career has been exemplary. At 19, after having participated in the XVIII Olympic Winter Games in Nagano in 1998, won several World Cup events, as well as the famous all-categories crystal Globe, during the 2000/2001 season. Janica now has only one idea in mind: to win an Olympic medal in Salt Lake City.

Olympic Solidarity is no stranger to these results. It was in 1995, on the recommendation of the Croatian NOC, that Olympic Solidarity offered an Olympic scholarship to the young hopeful as well as to her elder brother, Ivica. She was only 13



Janica Kostelic.

years old! Her Olympic scholarship came to an end three years later, the aim having been achieved: qualifying for and participating in Nagano. She thus became, at 16 years old, the youngest competitor in the skiing events.

Janica met James McLeod, Project Manager at Olympic Solidarity, at a training camp in Hintertux (Austria) in November 2001. When asked how and when she heard about Olympic Solidarity for the first time, Janica replied that her father told her about it: *"We were at a competition and he said that my brother and me were going to get some funding from the IOC. Now I know that Olympic Solidarity has helped athletes who don't have the possibility to train because they are from poor countries and they have given them money for their training."* With regard to the role of the IOC, she believes that *"it is a very important role for the IOC. It is hard to progress when you are from a small country because it is hard to get money for sports, no one understands you, no one thinks that you can do something and no one wants to risk investing in you. The scholarships are therefore welcome"*. Getting an Olympic scholarship at the age of 13, was for her *"a wonderful thing, and also for her family"*. As she said, *"we had little support and when we got the scholarship we could have a normal training and it allowed us to train with other athletes, other teams, other countries. It counted a lot at that time."*

*My only actual goal is to win an Olympic medal in Salt Lake City". We wish her good luck.*