Otis Elevator Company has enjoyed a community partnership with Special Olympics since June 1994. Otis employees from around the world volunteer their time and enthusiasm to support athletes with intellectual disabilities as part of "Team Otis".

**OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY**

Otis Elevator Company, which celebrated 150 years in 2003, is a wholly owned subsidiary of United Technologies Corporation and is the world’s largest manufacturer and maintainer of people moving products, including elevators, escalators, shuttle systems and moving walkways. With headquarters in Farmington, Connecticut, USA, Otis employees more than 60,000 people, offers products and services in more than 200 countries and territories and maintains more than 1.35 million elevators and escalators worldwide. Otis Elevator Company has been in existence since the invention of the “safety elevator” by Elisha Graves Otis in 1853.

**ABOUT TEAM OTIS**

**Background**

The executive management team of Otis Elevator Company in 1993 were looking internationally for a single humanitarian effort on which to focus the company’s contribution. They were seeking to embrace a global organisation, not with a cheque book or with a speech, yet to somehow reach out through its most valuable resource: their employees.

In 1994, Otis and its parent company, United Technologies Corporation (UTC) executives announced worldwide participation as major sponsors in the 1995 Special Olympics World Summer Games to be held in Connecticut USA.

It was more than just a financial gift, as in June of 1994 the Team Otis volunteer concept was formalised. From that date, every Otis employee globally was called upon to become actively involved as a volunteer in the Special Olympics Programme.

**Team Otis Today**

The Team Otis volunteer contribution focuses on assisting Special Olympics athletes and their coaches, from more than 60 countries, to take part in local, regional, state, national and World Games.

Team Otis Australasia goals are to develop and maintain long-term volunteer relationships with the Special Olympics organisation at all levels, providing a total focus on the value added benefits to the athletes, both in sport and their growth as individuals within the company by:

- Working with the athletes as they participate in organised games;
- Supporting the athletes to partake in community activities by providing expertise in both sporting and non-sporting programmes.

**Acknowledgment**

Team Otis in Australia was awarded the 2002 Prime Minister’s Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships with Special Olympics Australia at a presentation at Parliament House, Canberra. Otis Australia directed the award funds of $10,000 towards costs for the Australian Special Olympics team who travelled to Dublin, Ireland, for the 2003 World Games.

Team Otis in Australia are also the proud recipients of a Sport Achievement Award from Prime Minister John Howard and the Minister for the Arts and Sports Rod Kemp, in recognition of an outstanding contribution towards the success of the Special Olympics National Games held in Sydney in 2002.

Team Otis Australia assisted with the Inaugural Junior National Games at Launceston in December 2004 and the VIII National Games held on the Gold Coast in October 2006.

Otis’ Sydney employees raised funds to provide the medals for the 2nd Junior National Games to be held in Canberra in April 2008.

**GLOBAL MILESTONES**

1985 – Employees volunteer at World Summer Games, USA.

1996 – Special Olympics / Team Otis Partnership Award initiated.

1997 – Team Otis raises >US$100,000 to host farewell event, first of its kind.

1999 – Team Otis volunteers create & implement strategy to present awards on 3 stages simultaneously to separate groups at World Summer Games.

2000 – Employees volunteer at European Games, Netherlands.

2001 – 40 Volunteers from 8 countries organise & staff awards area for Floor Hockey, World Winter Games, Alaska.

2003 – Volunteers from around the world assist at World Games Ireland.

2007 – Volunteers from China and Australia assist at World Games, Shanghai.