Beyond the customer value we offer every day, few other activities demonstrate our contribution to society quite as well as a series of recent charitable contributions and sponsorships made possible by Aetna Group Insurance and the Aetna Foundation. This community support not only demonstrates the company’s commitment to its disability business and the constituents we serve, it also reflects a meaningful dimension of Aetna’s corporate philanthropic strategy – support for causes related to our core businesses.
For 150 years, Aetna has been providing for the insurance and financial needs of individuals and businesses. Today, Aetna is one of the nation's leading providers of health benefits, serving 13.7 million health care members.

Through Aetna Group Insurance, the company provides life, disability and long-term care coverage for more than 11 million Americans. In 2002, Aetna and the Aetna Foundation contributed more than $15 million in grants and scholarships to help build healthy communities.

Visit Aetna Group Insurance at: www.aetna.com/groupinsurance/employers.htm
And the Aetna Foundation at: www.aetna.com/foundation

At work in the community...

- National Organization on Disability
- The John Douglas French Alzheimer’s Foundation
- The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education
- The Center for Grieving Children
- Easter Seals
- The New England Assistive Technology Marketplace
- American Public Health Association/Aetna Susan B. Anthony Award

...Aetna partners with these praiseworthy organizations.
National Organization on Disability

In 2003 for the third year, Aetna Group Insurance and the Aetna Foundation awarded grants to the National Organization on Disability (N.O.D.), the leading national disability organization concerned with all disabilities, all age groups and all disability issues. N.O.D.’s mission is to expand the participation and contribution in all aspects of life of America’s 54 million men, women, and children with disabilities. The Aetna grant of $100,000 will support two major initiatives: the Start on Success internship program for high school students with disabilities and the National Partnership Program.

According to N.O.D., access to employment is the most difficult barrier facing America’s young people with disabilities. The majority of people with disabilities are unemployed or under-employed.

To address this problem, N.O.D. launched Start on Success, a paid internship program for high school students with physical, mental or sensory disabilities. The focus is on so-called “gap kids,” high school students who have transitioned to the workplace or continuing education by the time they graduate, are prime candidates for isolation, welfare or incarceration. Beginning with three pilot internships in 1995, Start on Success has expanded to 18 sites in 5 states (Alabama, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Ohio). It has a phenomenal success rate, with more than 90 percent of its graduates placed in jobs or continuing education.

The National Partnership Program was established in 1984 to partner with major non-disability associations to utilize their local chapter networks to further the mission of N.O.D. The goal is to reach out through these established networks to the workplace or continuing education by the time they graduate, are prime candidates for isolation, welfare or incarceration. Beginning with three pilot internships in 1995, Start on Success has expanded to 18 sites in 5 states (Alabama, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Ohio). It has a phenomenal success rate, with more than 90 percent of its graduates placed in jobs or continuing education.

The association community has great potential for furthering the mission of achieving full participation for people with disabilities both within their central organization structures and through the networks of state and local chapters and affiliates.

The John Douglas French Alzheimer’s Foundation

The Aetna Foundation has awarded $20,000 to The John Douglas French Alzheimer’s Foundation to support the foundation’s research on Alzheimer’s to identify approaches to delay the onset of the disease or to find a cure within the next ten years.

The foundation was created by Dorothy Kirsten French (a world-famous soprano and opera diva) and Richard K. Earner in honor of Mrs. French’s husband who suffered from Alzheimer’s and died in 1989. It is sadly ironic that Dr. John Douglas French, a world-renowned neurologist and co-founder of the UCLA Brain Research Institute, should succumb to this disease. He spent his career searching for a cure for Alzheimer’s.

Aetna’s grant will be used specifically to support Jae-Hyeon Cho, PhD, at the University of Alabama for the first year of his two-year fellowship in the Adopt-A-Scientist program – a program designed to identify and support the most promising young scientists who need funds to test cutting-edge hypotheses. Dr. Cho is studying pathways that lead to the formation of neurofibrillary tangles, one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer’s.

The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education

The Aetna Foundation awarded a $15,000 grant to the Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education (LIFE) to support an insurance literacy curriculum for high school students. Called “Next Generation: Insuring Your Future,” the program is free of charge and includes an easy-to-use teacher’s kit consisting of a video, an educator’s guide, student magazines, and a classroom poster.

The Next Generation program includes modules on Introduction to Insurance; Honing in on Health; Disability Dynamics; A Lesson in Life; and Planning Ahead.

The Life and Health Insurance Foundation for Education was founded in 1994 by a group of insurance-agent organizations. Since that time, nearly 100 insurance companies and financial services companies have supported the Washington, DC-based organization’s mission to educate the public about the essential role of life and health insurance within a sound financial plan.

The Center for Grieving Children

The Center for Grieving Children, based in Portland, Maine, is receiving $15,000 in seed money from the Aetna Foundation to support a new venture called “Project Beacon.” Project Beacon is a comprehensive, week-long program that provides grief counselors, educators and others nationwide, professional training in the center’s Peer Support Model, a volunteer-driven group model for working with children and families who face grief, loss and change.

Aetna’s grant will help program organizers refine the training manuals for community volunteers and further develop the curriculum for future volunteers. The grant reflects the importance of giving children an outlet for working through significant loss.

By supporting Project Beacon, Aetna increases the opportunities for kids all over the country to reap the benefits of the work being done at The Center for Grieving Children in Maine.

Easter Seals

Aetna Group Insurance was proud to be the lead sponsor of this year’s 21st annual Easter Seals Volleyball Marathon, held at Trinity College in Hartford, CT. The event benefited the Easter Seals St. Francis-Hartford Rehabilitation Center, which provides rehabilitation to people who have been seriously injured by accident or stroke or who are struggling to overcome birth defects. It also offers employment programs designed to help individuals with disabilities get back into the workforce.

Supporting Easter Seals is in line with the goals, ideals and values of Aetna Group Insurance. As an industry leader in disability benefits, Group employees focus their skills on helping disabled employees return to productive and fulfilling lives following a disabling accident or illness.

The tournament raised more than $50,000, well above the goal of $42,600 and $11,000 over the goal for the 2002 tournament. In total, 68 teams participated in the event, including several teams from Aetna Group Insurance which raised an additional $7,000 for Easter Seals above and beyond Aetna’s $15,000 grant to the organization.

American Public Health Association/Aetna Susan B. Anthony Award

For the third consecutive year, Aetna Group Insurance and the American Public Health Association (APHA) have co-sponsored The Aetna Susan B. Anthony Award for Excellence in Research for Women and Public Health.

The award was created through a $50,000 endowment provided by Aetna in conjunction with the Gerontological Health Section of APHA to recognize the best research on older women and public health. One of the primary goals of the award program is to recognize research that leads to:

- better awareness of health risks
- the design of preventive health and screening programs
- medical treatments and public health interventions that will help older women as health care consumers and caregivers

Paula H.M. Chavez, M.D., Ph.D. is the 2002 winner for his research on anemia and its physiological effects on older women.

The New England Assistive Technology Marketplace

As another way to help improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and society at large, The Aetna Foundation contributed $10,000 to become a Platinum Level Member of The New England Assistive Technology (NEAT) Marketplace in Hartford, CT. The NEAT Marketplace serves people with temporary or permanent disabilities of all ages, providing them with the opportunity to try out equipment and devices that make life more accessible. In addition to regularly scheduled expos and product demonstrations where equipment is available for trial, The NEAT Marketplace offers:

- training on assistive technology
- a computer lab adapted with specialized hardware and software
- resources to help with product research
- the Equipment Restoration Center, where donations of used durable medical equipment are restored and sold at considerable discounts.

The NEAT Marketplace helps people with all kinds of disabilities including temporary disabilities due to an accident or illness, permanent disabilities, or the effects of aging.