

# Annual Report 2002-2003

*Reflecting Gifts to Think First from October 2002 through September 2003*

## We Celebrate Ourselves and Sing Ourselves

2002-03 has been a special year for Think First of Washington, filled with old friends, new opportunities and partnerships, and especially, the outstanding individual accomplishments of many of the members of our Speaker's Program. In addition to each of these individuals' active participation in the Speaker's Program, bringing Think First's message of "using your brain to protect your body," they are in the midst of many personal accomplishments.

**Tammy Wilber**, Think First's Program Manager, not only scheduled and managed all of our assemblies, outreach activities and helmet fittings for the year, she has taken up dancing. Tammy has joined Light Motion,



a dance/movement company that showcases disabled and non-disabled dancers performing under the direction of Charlene Curtis, choreographer. Ms. Curtis has developed "front-end control" which reduces the physical limitations of wheelchair-using dancers. Already involved in wheelchair tennis, skiing and water skiing with Ski-for-All, Tammy delights in the dance. "This is another way to express myself through motion." The company's recent performance at the Broadway Performance Hall on Capitol Hill received much recognition in the local press. The precision number in which Tammy performed with several other dancers brought cheers and applause from the audience.

**Dale Doornek**, one of Think First's most active speakers at high schools throughout the region, won second place in the Wheelchair National Body Building this past year. Not satisfied to just look good, Dale recently put his upper body strength to work in championship class rowing. Dale just participated in



the second World Rowing Championship in late August in Milan, Italy. He was selected as "the fittest and strongest member of the Adaptive Rowing Team, which trained for two weeks in Philadelphia before heading off to Europe. Dale also mentors juveniles in the justice system, and holds down a full-time managerial position at the Goodrich Aerospace Company

**Cyndi Robinson**, a physical therapist at Harborview and member of the Think First speaker program, recently traveled to Chisinauk Moldava, a part of the former Soviet Union, to work in the local pediatric hospitals. She spent two weeks with Northwest Medical Team International. The team of physical therapists, massage therapist and a counselor worked in a pediatric burn hospital, a pediatric outpatient clinic and in a nearby village. They provided direct care to patients and family, as well as staff training. Cyndi called the trip "an opportunity to work with people who were appreciative of them in many ways, as well as an opportunity to travel internationally."



Cyndi, an avid bicycle-rider and bicycle commuter, whose presentation often includes her damaged bike helmet, reaches out to young people with a safety message directly tied to her own life, work, and interests. "I love being able to teach and educate others."

**Amy Lee Crawford**, Miss Pierce County 2003, and first-runner-up in the Miss Washington pageant this year, stands firm on a platform of reducing underage drinking (RuAD). A fairly recent member of the Think First Speaker Program, Amy uses her poise and personal beliefs to increase the responsibility of



young people in their own behalf. Often working in tandem with her stepfather Mike Ware, a member of the State of Washington Highway Patrol, she also speaks to police recruits of the Basic Law Enforcement Academy at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Seattle. Although Amy wasn't crowned Miss Washington, and cannot run for the title again, her charm and personal beauty will find another way to get her safety message out.

**Jeff Compatore**, member of the Think First speaker team, was originally found by Tammy Wilber while "cruising" the aisles of a local supermarket in his wheelchair. Tammy, always pro-active in her search for Think First representatives, helped Jeff become involved in Think First. In addition to his interest in



many wheelchair sports, including wheelchair basketball, Jeff has become a part-owner of "Rock 'N' Roll Cycles, an organization that creates and sells various forms of adaptive cycles for individuals with physical and developmental disabilities. Jeff's dream is to develop his non-profit business to bring adaptive technology for sports into the lives of young children, adults and older individuals. For Jeff, "It's not so much about the money, it's about bringing the opportunity for movement and enjoyment into the lives of individuals with disabilities."

## ThinkFirst

*Mission: Helping reduce  
brain and spinal cord injuries  
through education*

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Dr. Richard & Debbie Winn

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Please use the  
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Please accept our sincere apology for any errors or omissions. Call us with corrections 206-521-1880.

# ThinkFirst

Neurosurgery, Box 359766  
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## Act Now! Give Again to Think First!

### Group Health Grant Finished Early and Above Target

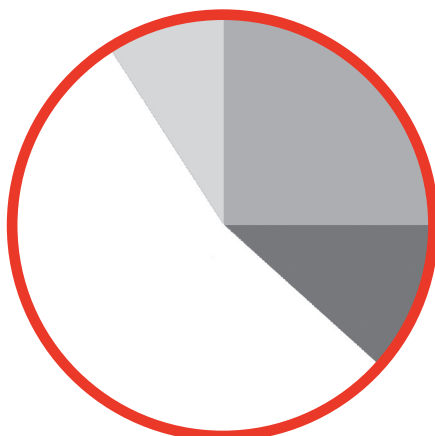
Close to 2000 Head Start youngsters in Seattle and King County were served in Think First's project this past year. Funded by a grant from Group Health Community Foundation, the project "We've Got Them Covered" funded individual helmet fittings, basic safety information translated into five languages and booster seat information and partial underwriting. Demand for the project, once the word got out to local Head Start directors, was fast and furious. Originally slated to last 18 months, project goals were exceeded in just under 11 months.

Think First's Director, Rosella Stern, was one of the speakers chosen to represent community partnerships to Head Start when federal reviewers evaluated program goals and activities this year. Additional funds are being sought to continue this highly successful program.

Think First continued reaching K-12 students, over 35,000, at assemblies, health fairs and other events in Western Washington. In addition to our standard program, we trained six new speakers under a grant from the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation.

### Fun, Fun, Funds

Two fundraisers, the 2003 Think First Bowlathon, and the Annual Benefit for 2003, raised a total of \$50,000 for the organization.



- Events ..... 50,000
- School Fees ..... 24,000
- Foundations ..... 109,000
- Direct Giving ..... 18,500
- Government ..... 0

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