

Connecticut Chess Organization Pledges \$1,000 in Support for Hartford Library Chess Program

After months of preparations and planning the Connecticut Chess Organization (CCO) and the Hartford Public Library, Albany Branch have teamed up to offer the Hartford community a scholastic chess program. In cooperation with Achievement First Hartford Academy and AllClubs Chess, the program offers 30 students the opportunity to learn and enjoy chess through instruction and supervised play.

The program is offered to students grades 2 through 4. It will run from September through December 2016. A decision will then be made whether to renew the program.

CCO is looking for volunteers to assist in providing the program students at least one additional day of supervised club play. Those interested in working with this wonderful group of players can contact Alexander Lumelsky at alexander.lumelsky@gmail.com.

The committed funds were raised by CCO through 2015-16 school year scholastic chess tournaments, including both CCO independent events and those sanctioned by the Connecticut State Chess Association. In total, CCO raised at least \$3,000 to fund new and established programs this year.

Equipment support for the program was provided through Achievement First, the Hartford Public Library and Gert Hilhorst of the Simsbury Library Chess Club.

In all, CCO is planning to fund three to five programs in 2016-17 with focus on player development and competition exposure. Those interested in donating their time or assisting with funds can contact Mr. Lumelsky.

CCO Chess Equipment Drive

The Connecticut Chess Organization is starting a drive for chess equipment for donation to scholastic chess programs and players in need. Everything from Pressman basic sets to chess clocks can be donated.

Items in priority demand are:

- (1) Tournament chess sets (vinyl boards and pieces);
- (2) Tournament size chess sets of other materials (Staunton pieces);
- (3) Chess clocks; and
- (4) Instruction display boards and pieces.

Thus far, West Hartford's Bugbee Elementary and Simsbury Library Chess Club donated sets and clocks.

Those interested in donating their equipment can contact Alexander Lumelsky at alexander.lumelsky@gmail.com.