



January 2015

Dear Community Partner:

The MAYHEM teams had a great year in 2014! In the fall, our *FIRST*® LEGO® League (FLL®) team, Mindstorms Mayhem, won the 1st Place Core Values Award and placed second seed at the Hollis-Brookline Tournament, performing well enough to compete at the 2014 NH/VT Championship. Mechanical Mayhem, our *FIRST* Robotics Competition (FRC®) team, won a silver medal at two qualifying district events as well as the prestigious Engineering Inspiration Award at the second district event. At the New England Championship in Boston, Mechanical Mayhem won the Excellence in Engineering Award. They capped off their year by placing 14th out of 100 of the world's best teams and winning the Team Spirit Award at World Championship.

On January 3, 2015, the new FRC game, Recycle Rush, was announced, ushering Mechanical Mayhem into a six-week build season as students diligently design and build a competitive, 120-pound robot. Recycle Rush is played by two alliances of three teams each who score as many points as possible in a 2½-minute match by stacking totes on top of each other and topping the stacks with recycling containers. Additional points are earned by putting "litter" (pool noodles) into the holes on top of the recycling containers. Moreover, students with varying interests maintain the newly redesigned website and write award submissions, press releases, articles, and newsletters. This year Mechanical Mayhem is registered to participate in three district tournaments: Granite State District Event at Nashua High School South on February 26-28, UMass District Event in North Dartmouth on March 12-14, and Northeastern District Event in Boston on March 26-28.

International *FIRST* programs such as FLL and FRC give students the opportunity to experience STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through exhilarating competition. Students develop teamwork and problem solving skills as they build and operate robots to meet engineering challenges. FLL teams with students aged 9-14 are presented with the challenge of developing an autonomous LEGO robot, researching a real world issue, and presenting their research in an innovative way. The FRC program is designed for high school students and incorporates professional engineering tools such as software programming and CAD. MAYHEM offers the *FIRST* experience to students who otherwise do not have the opportunity.

FIRST emphasizes partnerships with professional engineers and business mentors, and consequently, the program can be a life-changing, career-molding experience. We are thankful for the support of our sponsors who make these enriching programs available. Now in our 11th year, Mechanical Mayhem has grown to include homeschool, charter, private and public school students from nine southern NH communities. The MAYHEM robotics programs have graduated a number of seniors who have gone on to study engineering at respected universities like the Air Force Academy, Stanford, Purdue, Carnegie Mellon University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Harding University, Northeastern, and Cedarville University.

These programs present terrific opportunities, but also significant challenges. A minimal FRC team budget is about \$15,000: \$9,000 in registration fees for New England tournaments, and \$6,000 for robot parts, transportation, and all other costs. Competing at the World Championship Event, if we qualify, would cost another \$15,000: \$5,000 for registration, and approximately \$10,000 for transportation and lodging for the team.

We need your help! Because *FIRST* Robotics invests in the future, we hope you will partner with us to help prepare the next generation of outstanding employees and community leaders. Please fill out and send us the attached donation form provided and we will display your business logo on our sponsor banner and website. All contributions to MAYHEM's 501(c)(3) non-profit organization are tax deductible. For contributions over \$500, we will also proudly display your logo on our robot!

For more information, please see the following websites: www.mayheminc.org and www.usfirst.org

Thank you!

MAYHEM Youth Robotics Teams
89 Stable Road, Milford, NH 03055
603-672-5150, info@mayheminc.org