

# M.A.Y.H.E.M.

*Milford Area Youth  
Homeschoolers Enriching Minds*

March 2011

Dear Community Partner:

The Mayhem teams have had a busy year! In December, our veteran FIRST LEGO League (FLL) team, Mindstorms Mayhem, won 1<sup>st</sup> Place Research Project Award at the 2010 FLL New Hampshire State Tournament for their innovative solution for using genetically modified bacteria to fight obesity. Their robot earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place in Robot Performance. Mechanical Mayhem, our high school FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) team, which is only in their seventh season, was blessed with another awesome year. At the 2011 BAE Systems Granite State Regional Competition, the team was named Regional Champions, for the second year in a row, along with Team 175, BUZZ Robotics, from Enrico Fermi High School, and Team 176, Aces High, from Windsor Locks and Suffield High Schools. This regional winning alliance has now qualified to compete at the FRC Championship Event in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 28-30, 2011. Additionally, the team won the Excellence in Design Award sponsored by Autodesk for their animation video, as well as the Website Award which recognizes excellence in student-designed, -built, and -managed FIRST team websites.

For the second time, Mechanical Mayhem will be attending a second regional! The team was awarded a grant from NASA covering the registration fee to attend the new Smoky Mountain Regional, April 1-2, in Knoxville, TN. The team is eager to compete again before nationals with their award-winning robot "Kanga" and minibot "Roo."

FIRST Robotics is an international program with the goal of giving students the opportunity to discover how exciting and rewarding science and technology can be. Students develop problem solving skills and teamwork as they design, build, and operate robots to meet the year's engineering challenge. FLL teams are also judged on their research of a real world problem and their ability to present the research in a creative way. FLL is for students aged 9-14. The FRC program for high school age students 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 corporate and individual sponsors who help us make these enriching programs available to our communities' students. In seven years Mechanical Mayhem has grown from a dozen to approximately two dozen students from several southern NH communities including: Windham, Wilton, Nashua, Mont Vernon, Milford, Merrimack, Manchester, Lyndeborough, Londonderry, Hampstead, Bedford and Amherst. The Mayhem robotics programs have graduated a number of seniors who have gone on to study engineering at top universities like Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Cedarville University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of New Hampshire, Purdue University, Harding University, Northeastern University and Carnegie Mellon University.

These programs present terrific opportunities, but also significant challenges. A minimal FRC team budget is about \$14,000: \$8,000 in registration fees for a regional and some off-season tournaments, and \$6,000 for robot parts, transportation, and all other costs. Competing at the national Championship Event will cost another \$13,000: \$5,000 for registration, and approximately \$8,000 for transportation and lodging for the team.

We need your help! Because FIRST Robotics promotes academic excellence and encourages interest in math, science, and technology, we hope you will partner with us to help prepare the next generation of outstanding employees and future community leaders. Please fill out the attached donation form provided for your convenience. All contributions are tax deductible, as MAYHEM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information, please see the following websites: [www.mayheminc.org](http://www.mayheminc.org) and [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)

Thank you!

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