

PRESS RELEASE

**5th Annual Martin Luther King Jr Chess Classic
January 28, 2006**

**RE : ACE Express Check Corporation \$2,000.00 Contribution
to Support Chess Activities in Kern County**

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WHEN : Saturday
January 28, 2006
10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

WHERE : Independence Elementary School
2345 Old Farm Road
Bakersfield, CA 93312

The 5th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Chess Classic at Independence on Saturday, January 28, 2006 is expected to have over 300 participants with over 80 teams participating.

In addition to Kern County, teams come from Los Angeles, Orange County and Fresno to participate in these outstanding Tournaments organized by the Youth Chess Charitable Foundation (YCCF).

According to Mr. Ed Herrera, a director of the BCSD Ed. Foundation, "ACE Express Check Corporation will be contributing \$2,000.00 to the BCSD Ed. Foundation to support chess activities in Kern County."

Mr. Doug Merrill, Senior Vice President of the ACE Express Check Corporation will be making the presentation at the 5th Annual Martin Luther King Jr Chess Classic at Independence Elementary School.

According to Mr. Herrera the BCSD Ed. Foundation has been supporting chess in BCSD schools and this significant contribution by an outstanding organization will allow the Foundation to continue those efforts. "Chess has been proven to teach children "how" to think and it gives them the mental tools to use in approaching the solution to problems."

In a study conducted by IBM from 1986 to 1990, children introduced to chess were **"99 times more likely to score higher on standardized reading tests"**. "Chess instills in young players a sense of self worth and **dramatically** improves a child's ability to think rationally".

According to Mr. Herrera, the benefits of Chess are **"so significant and so obvious that every school in Kern County should have a Chess Program and it ought to be part of EVERY schools' curriculum"** . **WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE SAID? HOW MUCH MORE RESEARCH NEEDS TO BE DONE BEFORE ALL PROGRESSIVE SCHOOLS HAVE CHESS AS PART OF THEIR CURRICULUM?**

Mr. Huff, Executive Director of Youth Chess Charitable Foundation (YCCF) stated: "I couldn't agree more with all of Mr. Herrera's comments".

According to Mr. Huff, "YCCF has contributed over \$10,000 to the BCSD Ed. Foundation over the past 5 years to support scholastic chess activities in Kern County. YCCF has long supported BCSD Ed. Foundation and is very excited that "ACE Express Check Corporation" will also be partnering with "YCCF and BCSD Ed. Foundation in promoting the benefits of chess in all of Kern County's Schools."

Mr. Huff stated that YCCF Tournaments are 5 round swiss, game 30 minutes and are open to **any** scholastic player from kindergarteners to seniors in high school. We have 5 sections [K-1; K-3; K-6; K-8 and K-12.]

Every YCCF Tournament is open to individuals, school teams and club teams. Teams consist of at least 2 players from each school or club. The top **5** players from each school or club in each section count towards team trophies.

Participants can play as individuals. They do not have to be on a club or school team in order to play.

Traditionally, YCCF Tournaments have the most and best trophies, awards and prizes of any Scholastic Chess Tournament. In the past, YCCF local sponsors have also been generous with providing free tickets and/or coupons for sporting events and/or food services.

All YCCF Tournaments normally have at least one chess master on site to provide limited group chess instruction and individual game analysis. This is free to all participants and is a good opportunity to receive some excellent chess instruction and analysis at no cost. YCCF encourages all participants to have at least one of their own games analyzed. **One of the best and most effective chess learning techniques is game analysis.**

These chess masters are also often available for individual; team; club; group; and/or school lessons! Please inquire directly with these chess masters for rates; schedules; levels of play that they teach; locations where they teach; etc.

The host schools normally also provide some form of entertainment after the Tournament and before the Awards Ceremony. This has helped ensure that YCCF Chess Tournaments are unique in the Scholastic Chess World and also provides a wonderful opportunity for the host school's kids to showcase their talent for 15 to 20 minutes to 400-500 people while participants await the determination of the final results.

YCCF also normally arranges to have chess vendors on site to provide the opportunity to purchase books, supplies, chess sets, chess clocks, etc.

Please email YCCF at youthchessorg@aol.com or call Mr. David Huff, YCCF Executive Director at (661) 510-7118 or (661) 827-9068 if you have any questions.

Also visit the YCCF website at www.youthchess.com for entry forms, results of Tournaments, pictures, Tournament schedule, etc.