

“His Goal: Help Checkmate Hunger in Idaho”



Carl brought in 355 pounds of food, enough to feed a family of four for over three weeks.

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After he won last year’s Idaho Scholastic Chess Championship as a sophomore, Carl Vellotti thought he might skip this year’s competition.

Then he noticed a sign on a wall at Boise High about the fact that 1 in 6 Idahoans is food insecure.

“I saw it and thought it might be a way to help people,” Carl says.

He started a drive to get people to pledge food for every game he won. Family, friends and teachers all chipped in. Once again, Carl went undefeated in all five of his games and won the state championship. The result of his food drive was over 350 pounds.

Next year’s tournament is already looking more attractive. “I’ll do it again and try to make the drive even bigger,” he says. 

