Hartford students will be geared up to hit the field this spring after receiving 20 boxes of donated sports equipment March 24 from a new Connecticut charity. Bronson Starsiak, co-founder and president of SKORE — Students Keen on Recycling Equipment, made the delivery to Nicole Porter, operations manager for athletics for the Office of School Improvement at Hartford Public Schools.

Starsiak, a junior at Simsbury High School, recently founded the non-profit organization with a group of students to give fellow students the opportunity to participate in sports. The inspiration came as the teens talked about all of the unused sports equipment they have collected over the years as they have tried different sports.

“We know how expensive sports equipment can be, and we thought the expense might be preventing other kids from playing,” Starsiak explained. The organization collected gently used balls, sticks, gloves, helmets and other gear for the kickoff of the spring sports season and chose Hartford Schools as the first recipient.

“On behalf of Hartford Public Schools, we are very grateful to SKORE for the donation,” said Nicole Porter, “Team sports are important for students’ self-esteem and to build crucial social skills.”

SKORE is always looking for volunteers to become Team Members and for Team Leaders to start a SKORE chapter in their own schools. Team Members can help organize equipment collections, clean and sort equipment, and complete tasks assigned by their Team Leader.

Those interested in donating equipment or hosting a donation event can contact SKORE at skorebig.com.

Schools, churches, and other organizations in need of SKORE can reach out as well.

SKORE, Students Keen on Recycling Equipment, is a not-for-profit organization created by Simsbury high school students led by Bronson Starsiak and Jack Donofrio that collects gently used sports equipment for underprivileged kids. Visit http://skorebig.org/ for more information.