
Press Release

May 18, 2012

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Houston Astros, Baseball Tomorrow Fund & Academy Sports + Outdoors To Host Baseball Equipment Drive to Support H.P.A.R.D. Youth Sports *Donated Equipment & Baseball Tomorrow Fund Grant Will Support Youth Sports Programs*

Major League Baseball (M.L.B.) & the Houston Astros are teaming up with the Baseball Tomorrow Fund (B.T.F.) & Academy Sports + Outdoors to host an equipment collection drive during the Astros-Rangers game on Sunday, May 20, at Minute Maid Park. Academy has donated over 200 gloves, & fans are invited to make their contributions by donating new & used equipment to benefit the Houston Parks & Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) youth baseball & softball programs.

"The Houston Parks & Recreation Department is delighted to receive this generous grant & the equipment donated by our friends & neighbors," said Joe Turner, Director, Houston Parks & Recreation Department. "The Astros, their fans, & our friends at Academy know the importance of baseball in the lives of young Houstonians, & through their efforts our youth recreation programs will hit one out of the park."

In conjunction with the equipment drive, H.P.A.R.D. will receive a \$5,000 equipment grant from the Baseball Tomorrow Fund. The grant will be given in the name of Astros outfielder J.D. Martinez in honor of his commitment to youth baseball & softball. Prior to the Astros-Rangers game, Martinez & Meghan Chisholm, B.T.F. senior grant coordinator, will meet on the field to present a ceremonial check to the department.

Last year, over 15,000 pieces of equipment & over \$300,000 in monetary contributions were donated to youth baseball & softball organizations in Major League markets in conjunction with the Equipment Day initiative. To date, nearly 100,000 pieces of equipment & approximately \$1,250,000 in cash donations have benefited recipient organizations.

About The Baseball Tomorrow Fund

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (B.T.F.) is a joint initiative of the Major League Baseball Players Association & Major League Baseball designed to promote the growth of youth baseball & softball throughout the world by awarding grants to support field renovation & construction projects, equipment & uniform purchases, coaches training material, & other selected program expenses. Since its formation by M.L.B. & the M.L.B.P.A. in 1999, B.T.F. has awarded over 600 grants totaling more than \$22 million to non-profit & tax-exempt organizations in the U.S., Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa & Asia. Approximately 300,000 young players have benefited from programs & facilities supported by the fund. For more information, visit baseballtomorrowfund.com & follow B.T.F. on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [MLBlog](#).

About The Houston Parks & Recreation Department

The Houston Parks & Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards & manages over 38,992 acres of parkland & greenspace for the City of Houston & develops & implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks & Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.