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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### RAYS BASEBALL FOUNDATION TO AWARD \$100,000 TO LOCAL NONPROFITS

**ST. PETERSBURG, FL (Oct. 5, 2013)** - The Rays Baseball Foundation, the official charity of the Tampa Bay Rays, will award a total of \$100,000 to 19 local nonprofit organizations through the Community Fund Grant during a pregame ceremony on Wednesday, September 18.

The Rays Community Fund Grant Program provides assistance to local nonprofits in the Tampa Bay region. Grants averaging \$5,000 are awarded to help support and enhance current youth and education focused programs offered by community-based nonprofit organizations. To date, the Community Grant Fund Program has awarded 150 grants to local charities totaling close to \$775,000.

The Rays Baseball Foundation is committed to supporting youth and education programs throughout the Tampa Bay region. Key contributors to the Foundation include Rays owners, players, sponsors and fans. Since 2008, the Foundation has proudly invested more than \$3 million in youth and education programs in the region through grants, programs and scholarships.

The following 19 organizations and their corresponding programs will be supported by the Rays 2013 Community Fund Grant:

- Community Haven for Adults & Children with Disabilities, Inc., Transitions Program
- Early Childhood Council of Hillsborough County, Inc., Developmental Screening Program
- Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc., Every Child a Reader Day Program
- Great Explorations the Children's Museum, Museum InReach
- Hillsborough Water Safety Team led by St. Joseph's Children's Hospital, Swim Lesson Program
- Infants & Young Children of West Central Florida, Inc., Helping Hands Lending Library
- Manatee Children's Services, Inc., Crisis Intervention Specialist Program

- Manatee County Family YMCA, Changing the Destiny of Teen Moms Program
- Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, Inc./The Food Bank of Manatee, Healthy Snacks
- OASIS Network of New Tampa, Inc., Shoes for Students Project
- **Secrets of the Sea Marine Exploration Center and Aquarium, St. Petersburg Science Festival**
- Ready for Life, Inc., Youth Employment Readiness Project
- Seniors in Service of Tampa Bay, Inc., Foster Grandparent Program
- Starting Right, Now, GRAD Program
- The Family Network on Disabilities of Manatee/Sarasota, Inc., More Alike Than Different
- The Florida Center for Early Childhood, Building Better Behavior Program
- The Science Center of Pinellas County, Inc., Winter Camp Scholarships
- United Community Centers, Inc., Reading Recovery
- Wheels of Success, Wheels of the Future

-- Rays --

*The Tampa Bay Rays have proudly represented Major League Baseball in the Tampa Bay region since 1998. The organization and its foundation are committed to building a strong community bond through meaningful interaction and charitable contributions.*