

Texas Rangers give grant to Nocona Sports Complex

ARLINGTON – The Nocona Sports Complex was named one of 10 non-profit organizations to receive grants from Globe Life and the Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation Tuesday to support youth baseball and softball programs in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

The Globe Life Texas Rangers Baseball and Softball grants will be presented during a ceremony prior to the game tonight, Tuesday, September 24, against the Boston Red Sox at Globe Life Park in Arlington.

The Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation instituted the Grant Program in 2012 as another means to promote the growth and development of youth baseball and softball.

Since its creation in 1992, the Rangers Foundation has constructed the Texas Rangers MLB Youth Academy at Mercy Street Sports Complex, presented by Toyota, along with 12 baseball fields in other communities and supported thousands of children playing for RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner Cities) and Miracle League

programs. Seven grants were awarded in the first year of the program in 2012, an additional 11 were presented in both 2013 and 2014, 10 were given in both 2015 and 2016, eight were distributed in 2017, and 11 were awarded in 2018.

In February 2014, the Texas Rangers and Globe Life announced a 10-year agreement establishing Globe Life Park in Arlington as the new name for Rangers Ballpark in Arlington. As part of the agreement with the Rangers, Globe Life is making a substantial commitment to support youth baseball and softball programs in the Rangers' five-state territory by joining with the Texas Rangers Baseball Foundation in the grant partnership program.

On August 24, 2017, the Rangers and Globe Life announced an extension of their naming rights partnership establishing Globe Life Field as the name for the team's new ballpark that will open

next season. The extension of the Rangers-Globe Life partnership goes through 2048.

Over the past eight years, more than \$625,000 has been distributed to more than 78 different organizations – impacting more than 75,000 kids and more than 57 different communities through the Globe Life Texas Rangers Baseball and Softball Grant Program.

Based in McKinney, Texas, Globe Life has served the life insurance needs of American families since 1951. Globe Life has 4.2 million policyholders and more than \$80 billion of insurance in force.

Organizations were asked to complete a proposal describing how funding from the grant would allow them

to give youth in their area the opportunity to play either baseball or softball. The winners were selected based on need and the ability of the proposed program to improve baseball programs in their local areas. FOX Sports Southwest helped to promote the grant program throughout the Rangers entire television territory.

Funds will be used to purchase baseballs, softballs, bats, bases, and batting cages for the Nocona Sports Complex, a development which will include multiple baseball and softball fields as well fields for soccer and youth football on a portion of 100 acres the Nocona Independent School District owns immediately north of the Old Nocona Boot Factory.

The Sports Complex Committee recently informed the Nocona School Board that the first two phase of the School Without Walls would

begin next month with EMT courses being held in Nocona. In January a nursing training program will also begin in Nocona as part of the committee's commitment to assist the school district with expanding its vocational and technical program.

Mrs. Donna Culpepper, executive director of the Nocona Economic Development Corporation and a member of the Sports Complex Board, attended special ceremonies Tuesday night at Globe Life Park where the 10 recipient organizations were recognized prior to the Texas Rangers baseball game.

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