



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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MLB & MLBPA awards \$50,000 to Texas Advocacy Project For the “Healthy Relationships Community Grant” Program

AUSTIN, TX May 21, 2020 – AUSTIN, TX – Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) will invest \$50,000 in Texas Advocacy Project’s Teen Outreach Program. The “Healthy Relationships Community Grant” focuses support in three areas: domestic violence survivors, mental health resiliency, and relationship skills. Texas Advocacy Project is one of only ten nonprofit organizations throughout the United States to receive the first of seven donation phases.

Since its inception in 2015, the Teen Outreach Program has provided training on healthy relationships, teen dating violence, online safety, and leadership skills. Last year alone The Project trained 2,159 teens, providing them the necessary tools to create a safer future for themselves and their peers.

The Project’s Teen Outreach Program utilizes a two-tiered model in an effort to prevent inter-personal violence among youth:

1. **Middle & High Schools Outreach:** Texas Advocacy Project creates and provides free trainings to middle and high schools throughout Texas on topics including healthy relationships, dating violence, and digital abuse.
2. **Teen Ambassadors of Hope:** Teens from across the state make a commitment to stand up for healthy relationships. After a series of trainings, Teen Ambassadors make an impact in their communities by creating their own peer-to-peer outreach campaign. This expands awareness of safe relationships and provides resources that teens can turn to if they are experiencing any form of dating abuse.

“Texas Advocacy Project has taught us how to be young leaders, how to identify healthy relationships and ways to talk to others when there are red flags in relationships,” said Hunter Jones, 2019 Teen Ambassador of the Year.

Issue Summary:

The “Healthy Relationships Community Grant” represents an ongoing commitment by MLB and the MLBPA to provide support to causes that assist vulnerable populations, which has historically included financial assistance toward disaster relief and recovery as well as human trafficking prevention. This overall initiative is a \$3 million commitment to provide funding in 2020 and 2021 to organizations that support healthy relationships through programs designed to build and improve relationship skills of the

next generation, strengthen and provide critical services to survivors of domestic violence, and improve mental health resiliency among vulnerable populations.

About Texas Advocacy Project

Last year TAP served 4,738 clients, impacting the lives of nearly 10,659 women and their children. Their mission is to prevent domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking throughout Texas through FREE legal services, access to the justice system, and education. Details at www.TexasAdvocacyProject.org. If you need help, call 1-800-374-HOPE.

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