

Rays, Radke aid youth baseball team

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TAMPA — Thanks to two major league backers, the Town 'N Country Pony League 9-year-old Mustangs received the financial help needed to attend this weekend's national baseball finals in Texas.

After seeing a *Times* story about the team needing \$10,000 for its trip, the Tampa Bay Rays donated \$5,000. The Rays will present the gift during the team's practice Tuesday at Shimberg Park in Town 'N Country.

Former Minnesota Twins pitcher and Jesuit alum [Brad Radke](#) also donated \$500. Radke played youth baseball at Shimberg Park as a member of a visiting youth league.

"For these people to come forward and make this opportunity possible for these kids, it feels very humbling," coach Keith Brackin said. "Now we know it's possible and we can concentrate to going out and getting it done."

The team had recently raised \$3,200 with a hat drop at a local Publix, still far below their total. Brackin has booked the trip using his personal credit cards.

The team is the sole East Coast representative in the 12-team tournament, which begins Friday in North Richland Hills, Texas, which is outside Dallas.