

## Rays donate to worthy cause

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By Bill Chastain / Special to MLB.com

ST. PETERSBURG -- Prior to Sunday's game between the Devil Rays and Pirates at Progress Energy Park, the Devil Rays presented a check in the amount of \$2,500 to the Devil Rays Wheelchair Softball Team.

"This will really help out," said Doyle Mann, the team's captain, manager and shortstop. "We're in our fundraising mode right now."

The team is a product of a sponsorship outline from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays Major League Baseball Club's Community Outreach Department called the Rays of Hope Foundation.

The Major League Rays allow the team to use the Rays name and logo and have provided funding resources for the program. In return, the Devil Rays provide opportunities for wheelchair users to participate in the game of softball on an equal yet competitive playing field.

In May, the Devil Rays will host the first Florida Wheelchair Softball Tournament, which will be called "Spring Training in Florida." The tournament will be played on the Dale Mabry Campus of the Hillsborough Community College in Tampa.

"We're still looking for players [for this year's team]," Mann said.

For more information on becoming a sponsor or a player, you can contact Mann at (813) 323-2569.

*This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.*