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## Prince Hall Shriners Donate to Youth Football Program

*Story and photos by:  
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Desert of the Far East*

**SAN ANTONIO** – Football is big in Texas, ranging from the Dallas Cowboys to the Texas Longhorns and even to high school football.

Many boys are awaiting their chance to make their way onto the gridiron and for those between the ages of 5 - 16 there is Pop Warner Football.

According to its website, Pop Warner Football has been around since the inception of the league in 1929 by founder Joseph J. Tomlin as a four-team conference in Northeast Philadelphia.

Since then, participation has steadily increased to today's record numbers. Over 240,000 youths participated in Pop Warner -sanctioned football programs in 2004, and those numbers are continuing to grow.

To help the Southeast Apaches (Mitey-Mite Division) here, Prince Hall Shriners of Moussa Temple No. 106, Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine, North and South America and its Jurisdictions, Inc., donated a check for \$500 to the youth program at Nicholas Copernicus Park, Aug. 30.

Noble James Pearson, Illustrious Potentate of Moussa Temple elaborated on the donation.

"Donations from organizations like the Prince Hall Shriners assist the team with purchasing uniforms and maintaining equipment. They



*Back Row from left to right: Head Coach Roosevelt Fagan, Noble Fred Jacobs, Ill. Potentate James Pearson, Vice Pres. Ronnie Murray, Asst. Coach Noble Kenneth Bankston, Asst. Coach Bro. Alfred Trigg, and members of the Southeast Apaches pose for a photo at Nicholas Copernicus Park, Aug. 30. Not pictured is Asst. Coach James Thomas.*

provide a great program for keeping young boys off the streets and away from drugs."

Moussa Temple has been donating funds and time to the organization each year.

According to Ill. Potentate Pearson, this allows Moussa Temple another opportunity to service the community.

Ronnie Murray, vice president of the Southeast Apaches, was present and accepted the donation.

"On behalf of the Southeast Apaches and its board of directors, we thank you. We are giving our time and the Shriners are giving their time. This is what this is all about."

Murray who has been involved with the Apaches for 10 years said the program brings kids together and provides a diverse and disciplined environment.

"We don't charge a lot for registration, it is only \$50, but it does not cover the cost of insurance (\$3,000) and officiating (\$2,000)."

According to Murray, Jacksonville Jaguar's wide receiver Jarett Dillard is a product of the Southeast Jaguars, who played at Rice University where he holds the NCAA record for career touchdown receptions.

Noble Fred Jacobs, Moussa Temple's Assistant Rabban, played for the Apaches and has supported them throughout the



decades.

“The Apaches have been around for more than 40 years. They are a pillar in the community and have been a spring board for those who have played in college.” Copernicus Park hosts the Southeast Apaches; without the presence of the team the center would not have flourished said Noble Jacobs.

“A new playground has been added to the park and a new outdoor cooking area is planned, this is all due to donations from organizations such as the Prince Hall Shriners.”

According to the San Antonio Pop Warner Football Conference website, the San Antonio Pop Warner Football Conference continues to grow along with San Antonio and surrounding areas to

meet the communities’ needs and offer an opportunity for young athletes to learn and excel in sports and personal achievements with rewards offered unlike any other youth sports league locally.

The Prince Hall Shrine Family has a membership of approximately 35,000 in some 227 Shrine Temples and 200 Courts, its women’s auxiliary, the Daughters of Isis, throughout the United States, Canada, Germany, Italy, England, Spain, Hawaii, Japan, Korea, Guam, Thailand, Panama, and the Bahamas.

The Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine is primarily a benevolent, charitable and fraternal organization. Its membership is dedicated to the principle of fostering civic,

economic and educational development programs throughout the world.



*This article is a representation of my personal observations and opinions and does not imply endorsement by any Masonic, federal or private organization. For any comments, I can be contacted at [parmermasonictaveler@hotmail.com](mailto:parmermasonictaveler@hotmail.com).*