

# PRESS RELEASE



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## *Diamond Dreams Honors Chris & Jill Davis as its “Keepers of the Game” for 2012*

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS, February 1, 2013—Mike Coolbaugh Diamond Dreams is proud to announce that it has named major league baseball player Chris Davis and his wife Jill the recipients of the first annual Diamond Dreams “Keeper of the Game” award.

“We wanted to honor someone who cares about others and who makes us proud in the way they go about their lives inside and outside the game of baseball, and we could not have picked a more deserving pair than Chris and Jill,” Diamond Dreams founder Scott Coolbaugh said.

The Diamond Dreams Keeper of the Game Award will be given annually to recognize a special person, family, or organization committed to serving the baseball community in North Texas and beyond through gifts of time and treasure and perpetuating the qualities of the game that exemplify Mike Coolbaugh’s dedication and values.

For 2012, Diamond Dreams selected Chris and Jill Davis as the award’s first-ever recipients. In addition to recognizing Chris and Jill at an award presentation dinner in January, Diamond Dreams made a donation in the Davises’ names to the baseball booster club at Longview High School in Longview, Texas, from which Chris graduated in 2004.

After a successful career for the Lobos at Longview High, Chris played two seasons at Navarro Junior College. Chris was drafted twice before but did not sign until after the Texas Rangers selected him in the sixth round of the 2006 draft. After a stellar minor league career, Davis played with the Rangers for parts of four seasons before being traded to the Baltimore Orioles in 2011. After Chris and Jill got married in the offseason, Chris blossomed with the Orioles in 2012, hitting 33 home runs and leading the club in

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*“Ensuring all players make it home safe”*

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several offensive categories while helping Baltimore earn its first postseason appearance in more than a decade.

But it is Chris and Jill's devotion to their faith and attention to caring for others that call for recognition. Chris and Jill have been go-to people for Diamond Dreams whenever any assistance with a project, event, or fundraiser has been needed. In addition to bowling with VIP donors at fundraisers, donating memorabilia for Diamond Dreams auctions, and being generous with their time and resources, Chris and Jill Davis have helped Diamond Dreams grow its presence in baseball communities near and far.

"The impact that Chris and Jill Davis have had on Diamond Dreams and the baseball community is very impressive. Their passion is something that has helped our organization succeed, and for that we are grateful," Diamond Dreams director James Vilade said.

Mike Coolbaugh Diamond Dreams is a non-profit organization that honors the memory of Mike Coolbaugh by promoting safety in the game of baseball and providing support to members of the baseball community in need. On July 22, 2007, while coaching first base for the Tulsa Drillers in the AA Texas League, Mike Coolbaugh was struck by a line drive in foul territory and killed instantly. To honor Mike and his contributions to baseball, and to advance Mike's passion for perpetuating the game and helping others, Scott and Susan Coolbaugh (Mike's brother and sister-in-law) started Diamond Dreams in 2009. In Mike Coolbaugh's honor, Diamond Dreams has raised money to build safe, state-of-the-art batting cages and practice facilities, provided financial assistance and baseball equipment to others in the baseball community nationwide who have been affected by tragedy, and awarded college scholarships to student-athletes from Mike's high school in San Antonio and D/FW area high schools. Since 2007, Scott Coolbaugh has been a coach in the Texas Rangers organization, including serving as the major league hitting coach in 2011 and 2012, and Diamond Dreams has been blessed to have the support of so many people in the Rangers organization and throughout the community in the D/FW Metroplex.

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