

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**From the Sainte Marie Foundation**

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**TX Ranger Ross Wolf Receives Surprise Visitors**

Texas Rangers' pitcher and NCHS graduate, Ross Wolf, received some surprise visitors from Jasper County last weekend.

Newton residents, Mike and Teresa Hartrich, attended a Texas Rangers game on Monday, Sept. 23, as guests of one of the Rangers' owners, Glenn Picquet, descendent of one of the original Picquet family who founded Ste. Marie in 1837. Glenn's father had grown up in Ste. Marie, and Glenn himself had visited his grandparents, longtime residents Jim and Sylvia Picquet, as a child.

"Ross told his parents a couple of months ago that one of the Rangers' co-owners, a man named Picquet, had seen that he was from Newton and asked if he had ever heard of a town called Sainte Marie," said Mike Hartrich, retired athletic director at NCHS and current vice president of the Sainte Marie Foundation. "Ross affirmed that indeed he knew people from Ste. Marie, and this man said, "Well, my relatives founded that town."

As a result of this exchange, Mike and the Sainte Marie Foundation eventually made contact with Glenn, who was delighted to hear from a distant cousin and invited Mike and his wife Teresa to TX for a Rangers' game. He was also delighted to learn that there was now a Foundation actively working to help his dad's small home town and preserve its history. He was so impressed with the work done by the Foundation in the last five years that he sent a \$5,000 donation to the Foundation in late August.

Mike and Teresa had a delightful weekend in Texas, and Foundation Directors are now deciding just how they will use this generous contribution.

"We are planning to open our museum in 2014," said Pat Reis, Foundation President, "so this gift is especially useful to us right now. We thank Ross Wolf for connecting us to this very thoughtful man."

Ross Wolf graduated from NCHS in 2001, and after a stint at Wabash Valley Community College, he was with three major league organizations before joining the Rangers .

The Sainte Marie Foundation, founded in 2007, is incorporated as an Illinois not-for-profit, founded exclusively for charitable purposes and dedicated to the improvement and historical preservation of Ste. Marie.

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Picture and caption:



Top, l-r: Texas residents Brenda and Glenn Picquet;  
Bottom, l-r: Mike Hartrich, Ross Wolf, Teresa Hartrich at  
Rangers Ballpark in Arlington, TX, prior to Texas Rangers  
12-0 win over the Houston on Mon., Sept. 23, 2013.