



PRESS RELEASE

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Mariners Open Their Doors for Inaugural *Refuse To Abuse*® 5K Run/Walk Inside Safeco Field

The Seattle Mariners will be on the road in Tampa Bay on July 21, 2012 but Safeco Field will be far from deserted. The ballpark will be filled with 1,000 runners and walkers participating in the first ever 5K that uses Safeco Field as its course. The sold out event builds on a 15-year partnership between the Mariners and the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) on the *Refuse To Abuse*® violence prevention campaign.

Mariners' manager Eric Wedge and his wife, Kate, are honorary chairs of the event and spokespeople for the campaign. Bringing the community together to raise money and awareness for domestic violence prevention was a natural fit for Kate, who has a long history of supporting survivors of abuse.

"It's an issue we feel strongly about. Domestic violence is such a hidden issue. It's prevalent across society; one out of three women will experience it in their lifetime, and that just floors me. Yet people don't talk about it," said Kate Wedge.

Participants—coming from seventeen states and Canada—will go through every level of Safeco Field from the upper concourse to the service tunnel, finishing up with a lap on the warning track around the field. A stroll through the bullpen to the finishers' area will round out the unique opportunity to access areas of the ballpark few have experienced. While fundraising was not required of participants, many are doing so. Every dollar raised will directly support WSCADV's violence prevention efforts across the state, including work with teens and youth engagement.

"We are thrilled to have the Seattle Mariners, their fans, and our supporters come together to support healthy, respectful relationships in this way," said Nan Stoops, WSCADV's executive director. "Domestic violence is preventable. Together, we can stop this violence before it starts."

In addition to the generous support of the Seattle Mariners through the team's non-profit foundation Mariners Care, event sponsors include FAROut.org (a project of The NW Network), Seattle Goodwill, Lummi Nation, Brooks, and the CW11 (KSTW).

About the Refuse To Abuse® campaign

The Refuse To Abuse® campaign is a 15-year partnership between the Seattle Mariners and the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence to promote healthy, respectful relationships. Print, radio, and television public service announcements in both English and Spanish are produced featuring prominent Mariners players and managers, reaching hundreds of thousands of Mariners fans. This year's campaign features Eric and Kate Wedge, Felix Hernandez, and Franklin Gutierrez, and is supported by Wells Fargo, with in-kind support from the marketing firm Craters of the Moon.

About the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Founded in 1990 by survivors of domestic violence and their allies, the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) is a non-profit network of over 70 domestic violence advocacy programs across the state of Washington. WSCADV improves how communities respond to domestic violence and works to create a social intolerance for abuse. Their work includes research, training and technical assistance, producing educational tools, promoting domestic violence awareness, and public policy advocacy. To learn more, please visit wscadv.org.

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