



PRESS RELEASE

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Mariners Host Second Annual *Refuse To Abuse*® 5K Run/Walk Inside Safeco Field for Domestic Violence Prevention

This weekend the Seattle Mariners won't be stepping out onto Safeco Field, but over a thousand runners and walkers from across the country will be. This unique event is the only 5K that uses Safeco Field as its course. Participants will have access to every level of the ballpark, from the view deck to the tunnel to the final lap around the field. The event builds on a 16-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. "It's an issue we feel strongly about" said Kate Wedge, who has a long history of supporting survivors of abuse. "It's so prevalent across society, yet people don't talk about it. At a young age, you don't always know what's supposed to happen in relationships. Having conversations about domestic violence, and starting at a young age is so important."

According to the American Journal of Public Health, one in three teens has experienced some kind of abuse in their dating relationship. This event is a unique and fun way to raise awareness and get involved in preventing domestic violence. In addition to receiving race shirts and finisher's medals, every 5K participant will receive a set of cards with questions, games, and resources to help them start talking about relationships with people of all ages. No one is too young or too old to think about what a healthy relationship looks like and feels like.

"The Mariners and the entire Seattle community have really stepped up to help put an end to domestic violence" said Nan Stoops, WSCADV's executive director. "We are very grateful to the Seattle Mariners organization, Kate and Eric Wedge, fans and supporters for believing in this very simple message: we can stop domestic violence before it starts."

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.

In addition to the generous support of the Seattle Mariners through the team's non-profit foundation Mariners Care, event sponsors include The NW Network of Bisexual, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse, Seattle Goodwill, The Land of Nod, Puyallup Tribe of Indians, Council 28 AFSCME Washington Federation of State Employees, Lummi Nation, and Brooks.

About the Refuse To Abuse® campaign

The Refuse To Abuse® campaign is a 16-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, Raul Ibañez, and Franklin Gutierrez, and receives 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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