



PRESS RELEASE

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

While the Seattle Mariners are on the road in Los Angeles this weekend, over a thousand runners and walkers from around the country will fill Safeco Field for the *Refuse To Abuse*® 5K. 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 players' tunnel to the final lap around the field. The event builds on an 18-year partnership between the Mariners and the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WSCADV) on the [Refuse To Abuse](#)® violence prevention campaign.

According to the American Journal of Public Health, one in three teens has experienced some kind of abuse in their dating relationship. Locally, homicide research conducted by the Washington State Domestic Violence Fatality Review found that teens are not getting the critical information they need about dating violence, including information about what a healthy relationship looks like and practical tips on what to do if someone is abusing them. *Refuse To Abuse*® helps raise awareness and gives community members a way to get involved in preventing domestic violence.

"We are so appreciative of how the Seattle Mariners, their fans, and our supporters have come together to support healthy relationships," said Nan Stoops, executive director of WSCADV. "Domestic violence is preventable; together we can stop this violence before it starts."

While fundraising was not required of participants, many are doing so to support WSCADV's violence prevention efforts across the state, including work with teens and youth engagement. Funds raised this year have already surpassed previous efforts. In 2012 *Refuse To Abuse*® raised \$26,000; in 2013 \$83,000; and this year over \$90,000 to date.

Every 5K participant will receive a race shirt, finisher's medal, and information on [Love Like This](#), a new blog series by WSCADV designed to promote healthy relationships. *Love Like This*—geared

towards a young audience—illustrates typical situations that occur in relationships and gives examples of how to deal with them in a healthy, loving, and respectful way, as opposed to an abusive, controlling, or coercive way.

In addition to the generous support of the Seattle Mariners through the team's non-profit foundation Mariners Care, event sponsors include Sound Publishing, Council 28 AFSCME Washington Federation of State Employees, and Brooks Running.

About Refuse To Abuse®

The Refuse To Abuse® campaign is an 18-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 are produced featuring prominent Mariners players and managers, reaching hundreds of thousands of Mariners fans. This year's campaign features Felix Hernandez, Michael Saunders, and Lloyd McClendon, 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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