

Joe Torre Addresses County's First Men's Conference on Domestic Violence

On Saturday morning, November 20, 2004, over 300 men and women gathered at Purchase College for a free conference sponsored by My Sisters' Place entitled "Men Speaking to Men About Violence Against Women". Opening remarks were given by NY Yankees Manager Joe Torre, a committed supporter of the issue of ending family violence.

In moving testimony, Joe Torre stressed the importance of educating the public about domestic violence stating, "We cannot just put a band-aid on this problem-we need to educate and talk about it...When it stays inside it leaves scars."

Welcoming remarks were made by Thomas J. Schwarz, Purchase College President and Westchester County Executive Andrew J. Spano, both of whom spoke about the value of men and women collectively working to eradicate family violence. A compelling public service video by New York Football Giant Tiki Barber added impact to the message.

The mostly male audience fell silent for nearly three hours as featured speakers Ted Bunch and Tony Porter shared their expertise in riveting testimony about men's responsibility for ending violence against women, and they challenged well-meaning men to become part of the solution. The men spoke of their own journeys in understanding that domestic violence is a civil rights issue,

not simply a women's issue. They emphasized that, while a criminal justice response is necessary, a cultural and social shift is also required.

The conference, the first of its kind to be held in Westchester County, proved to be a powerful, interactive forum to educate the community and encourage strategies for a collective solution. Ed S., an attendee of the conference stated "I understand now that domestic violence will end when men change their attitudes and actions.

Domestic violence is not a women's issue - it's everyone's issue."

Sponsorship for this event was generously provided by Purchase College, Baker's Perfection, Chartwells, Casabella, Eastern Bag & Paper, Good Bread Bakery, J. Kings, Liz Claiborne, New England Linen, New York Football Giants, PFG, Paula Wittlin Photography, Plaza Sweets, Prime Time Provisions,

Qualityhousewashing.com, and Rockland Bakery.



Ted Bunch stresses individual responsibility needed to stop domestic violence

Governor Honors My Sisters' Place

"Over the years, New York has made great strides in fighting domestic violence in our homes and in our communities, thanks in large part to the efforts of many, like those we honor today, who have dedicated their time and effort to combating this horrible crime," said Governor Pataki when announcing the 2004 "Justice, Freedom and Courage Awards to End Domestic Violence". These awards recognize organizations whose "exemplary actions are particularly innovative and demonstrate a long-term commitment to ending domestic violence." At a ceremony on October 4, 2004, My Sisters' Place was recognized for providing direct services to victims of domestic violence and their children, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal services and job training; advocacy as a force for social change in law and public policy; and community education that challenges public perceptions of intimate violence and the social inequities that give rise to it, with special emphasis on prevention programs, especially those for youth. We are honored to receive this prestigious award, and thank the staff and supporters of MSP for their role in this tribute.

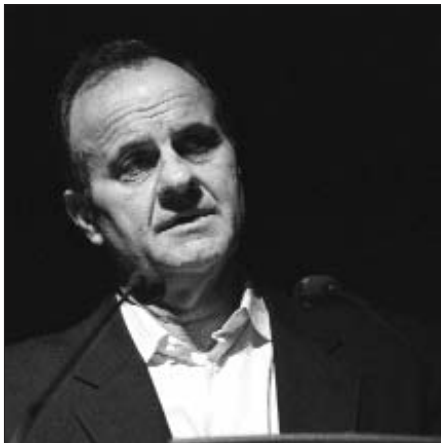


photo by Paula Markowitz Wittlin

Joe Torre urges men to step up to the plate

"We cannot just put a band-aid on this problem-we need to educate and talk about it...
When it stays inside it leaves scars."
Joe Torre



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Tony Porter challenges men to take action