



Safety First

Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation empowers kids facing domestic violence | By Jon Schwartz

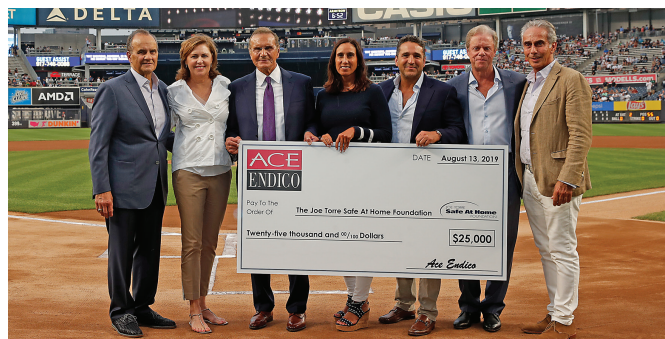
In 2002, Joe Torre and his wife, Ali, established the Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation, which promotes children’s safety and well-being by offering services to youth who have been traumatized by exposure to domestic violence. Nearly a decade after his managing career ended, the Hall of Fame skipper is still committed to keeping kids safe at home.

Over the years, Safe at Home has established numerous school-based programs, creating safe spaces in which kids can learn to find their voices and to respond without continuing cycles of violence. For the Brooklyn native, growing up in a home where he was exposed to domestic violence is what made the cause so resonant.

“Since 2005, we’ve had close to 100,000 kids come through our program,” Torre said on the YES Network broadcast on Aug. 13, when he and Ali visited Yankee Stadium for a pregame ceremony at which the foundation’s newest public service announcement was played on the video board. “And we know it works. It’s intervention and prevention. You don’t cure anything — these kids still have to go home — but they have tools now to deal with their problems,

and when they leave our program, they have a whole lot more self-esteem than when they came in.”

For Torre, who currently serves as chief baseball officer at Major League Baseball, the visit to the Bronx also featured an on-field presentation of a \$25,000 check from Yankees partner Ace Endico. “It means so much to us,” Torre said of the contribution. “I can’t tell you how appreciative I am of the Yankees allowing this to happen and making it possible for it to happen.”



Reader Leaders

Yankees, NYPL team up to recognize city’s young book lovers | By Gary Phillips

Players don’t get to do much reading during the marathon of a baseball season. Aside from scouting reports, guys like Mike Ford and David Hale just don’t have the time. The same cannot be said for the five kids that the Yankees’ first baseman and reliever met with on Aug. 14.

The students visited Yankee Stadium as part of the Yankees’ partnership with The New York Public Library’s Summer Reading Challenge. The annual initiative encourages New Yorkers, especially young people, to make reading a regular habit. One of the key parts of the Summer Reading Challenge, which is open to NYPL patrons ages 6–18, is a book report–style essay. The five winners of the essay contest got to spend the day in the Bronx, where they were hosted by Ford and Hale. The group took photos with the players, received autographed baseballs and were recognized on the field during a pregame ceremony.

“These are kids that are already readers; they are proponents of the library,” said Jonathan Clark, manager of school-age children’s programming at the NYPL. “So, we hope that they share

the message with other people who maybe aren’t using the library [about] the importance of reading and the importance of going to the library and participating in all the amazing programs.”

