

Nina Ovian
Intern, Project SAFE
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Final Report

As my internship comes to a close Project SAFE's restructuring comes to a close. While I will no longer be working full time, I will continue part time working on several projects. These projects will include ordering and packing harm reduction kits as well as advocacy for Substance Consumption Facilities and Pre-Booking Diversion programs. I will expand these advocacy efforts to the Baltimore area while I complete my final semester before graduation.

This summer was transformative and inspirational. I will forever be grateful for the people that I met and the work I was able to complete. The individuals that run this organization are almost entirely volunteers but are some of the most passionate and hard working people I have met in this field. It was a pleasure to work along side of them and I look forward to our continued work in the future. The funding I received this summer was the difference between working part time and working full time. This became incredibly beneficial when our executive director left and I was able to commit myself full time to filling in any gaps necessary. However, the most important aspect of this grant was having someone recognize the importance of this work and invest specifically in my abilities to create change. The work I do is underfunded and often met with great resistance, on top of this it is challenging and very emotionally draining. Having this support from people I have never met was exceptional and surprising. It gave me both the time and confidence to explore my strengths fully throughout the internship. I was able to meet so many people from all across the country and form connections that will benefit me in pursuing a career upon graduation.

Since my last report we dealt with an increase of violence against our community in the Philadelphia area. Many of the women we serve were terrified and felt helpless. After several conversations amongst the community we recieved repeated requests for pepper spray, but our unrestricted funds were limited. I decided to start a crowd funding website to try and raise \$600 to purchase a large order (<https://www.generosity.com/emergencies-fundraising/project-safe-anti-violence-fund>). At this point we have raised \$861 and still counting, with the last donation received yesterday. As I have spent the last month doing a great deal of direct services, being able to provide this has made a huge difference. It was a wonderful way to end the summer and we have since gotten other private direct donations that will continue this addition to our harm reduction supplies.

With graduation coming up the prospect of finding a job can be nerve wracking. This internship has provided me with the background and connections I need in order to feel much more secure that I can not only find a job but also find something in my field. I am proud of the work I have done and excited to begin this next phase of my life with the tools I need to succeed. There are no words to fully explain how grateful I am to the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation for providing me

with the bulk of the funding I received this summer. It was truly an unforgettable experience that I will forever cherish. Being able to spend an entire summer committed to doing work that had such a wonderful impact on such an underserved but deserving group was remarkable and helped me grow as a person.