

# A Year of Growth: Being Demand Abolition's GO to Girl

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**Title: Strategic Initiatives Co-Op, aided in the coordination of activities between 11 cities, scheduling calls, research projects, organizing/maintaining the shared online learning community, meeting minutes.**

## Introduction

Demand Abolition is committed to eradicating the illegal commercial sex industry in the US by combating the demand for purchased sex. We are catalyzing social change to reflect the dignity of all people, insisting that an inherent human right is that no person can be bought or sold. The CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sex Trafficking) Network is Demand's pilot project consisting of 11 cities throughout the United States. Through collaboration, implementation, and data reports we have been able to track the impact each city has had on the commercial sex industry in that area.

## Activity

Proactively researched and maintained a database of upcoming learning opportunities. Investigated new partnership opportunities; scheduled follow up meetings as appropriate. Drafted summary briefs; compiled key learnings and updated as necessary. Helped maintain ongoing technology development projects coordinated through a community of data programmers and computer scientists. Supported the online learning series by cultivating potential speakers, compiling stakeholder invitee lists, problem solving technology connections, and transcribing audio for greater dissemination. Assisted in coordination of events including: researching potential vendors, drafting invitations, organizing follow up, managing the event database, reserving transportation and/or airfare, and compiling session notes. Provided administrative support by scheduling meetings, preparing meeting materials (i.e., agendas, print outs, etc.), transcribing notes and audio recordings, drafting emails and reports, updating Raiser's Edge, and organizing documents on the shared drive.

## Outcomes

Strengthened communication skills, learned event planning, improved learning series website, found a collaboration platform to streamline work. I became a content expert in a field that I admired. I also gained valuable working relationships that have helped me gain professional experience. I also developed communication and interpersonal skills. Your co-op experience is what you make it, I showed up everyday with a can do attitude, a smile, and strong work ethic. Those three character traits and a significant amount of caffeine made my time at Demand Abolition a positive experience. I will say this: be careful of bad habits. Working in stressful environments, you need to have outlets and a healthy work/life balance. It took me a while to achieve that balance and it's hard to sustain. So take care of yourself and it will show in your work.



## Reflections

This co-op changed my life, the people were engaged and motivating. They answered any questions that I had and helped build my professional skillset. I was continually assigned work that was more challenging and was able to rise to the challenge. I was also able to partake in job interviews for the intern who would be replacing me and learned so much from that as well.



## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank all my amazing coworkers for their support, wisdom, friendship, and unlimited capacity to love.

