

# DC SAFE INTERNS: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

FALL 2018

## CHANDINI JHA COURT ADVOCACY INTERN MAY 2014 – APRIL 2015

### ***What interested you about interning with DC SAFE?***

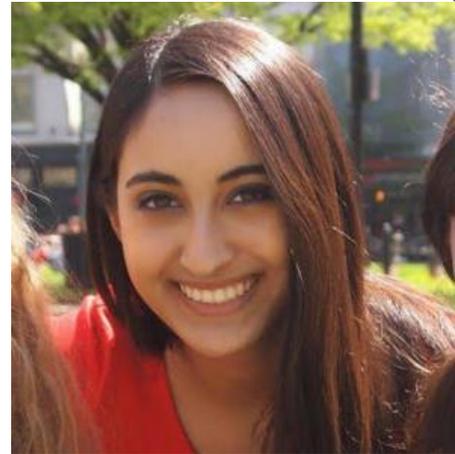
I wanted an internship that allowed me to take the values I learned in the classroom– survivor-centered, compassionate advocacy– and apply it to real life. DC SAFE allowed me to do that and more.

### ***What are you doing now?***

I am finishing up my last year at Georgetown, before embarking on a Fulbright Grant to research gender violence in India.

### ***How did your work at DC SAFE impact your life?***

It pushed me out of my comfort zone, and helped me grow as an advocate. The internship taught me the value of truly listening to survivors and empowering their choices.



### ***What would you tell prospective interns and volunteers?***

I recommend this internship without reservation to anyone who wants to make an impact in gender violence work. It was my favorite experience in undergrad.

“If you work with **DC SAFE** for a semester or a summer you will **learn more about domestic violence than you could ever learn in a classroom**. Direct service is not always easy but it is **fulfilling** and will give you **real experience** that can help **guide your career**.” –Hailey, Crisis Intervention Intern, Summer 2014

## **SARA HUGHES**

### **SUPPORTIVE ADVOCACY INTERN**

#### **FALL 2015**

#### ***What interested you about interning with DC SAFE?***

I had some background in working with domestic violence survivors, researching women in the criminal justice system, and riding along with police officers. I wanted to obtain a better understanding of the court process and the role of advocacy groups. DC SAFE offered an opportunity for me to witness just how difficult it is to meander the criminal justice system.

#### ***What are you doing now?***

I am now a Research Assistant with Michigan State University, on the [SPIRIT Trial \(Suicide Prevention Intervention for at-Risk Individuals in Transition\)](#). This is a randomized control trial funded jointly by the National Institute of Justice and the National Institute of Mental Health. Specifically, I interview pre-trial detainees that have had suicidal ideation or attempts within the past month. The ultimate goal of the study is to implement Stanley and Brown's Safety Planning Intervention in order to reduce suicide following the year after release from jail.

#### ***How did your work at DC SAFE impact your life?***

Interning at DC SAFE honestly changed my life (and nobody is paying me to say that). Before my internship I had plans of being a police officer after graduation. My experiences at DC SAFE allowed me to see all aspects of the criminal justice system and in short, I realized just how messed up the system really is.



As I heard stories of survivors, I realized how impactful childhood experiences really are. Many of the survivors had grown up in a home where violence was prevalent, just to find themselves in the same situation as an adult. Seeing this cycle of violence day after day first broke my heart, but then sparked a passion in me to affect change. I am now applying for Social Work Master's programs, and I am planning to be a social worker for children experiencing abuse, neglect, or other hardships. After gaining more of a perspective in the field of social work, I would like to affect change at a macro level through policy and criminal justice system reform.

#### ***What would you tell prospective interns and volunteers?***

Your time at DC SAFE is not going to be easy, but I promise it will be 100% worth it. My biggest fear in my internship search was obtaining an internship where my most meaningful task was to get the correct number of cream and sugars in my boss's coffee. I was blown away with the amount of hands on experience I received, and the amazing morale of the entire staff.



## **KATHERINE DONOHOE DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH INTERN SUMMER 2012**

### ***What interested you about interning with DC SAFE?***

I think I was most interested in interning with SAFE because it combined two of my areas of study really well — communications (essentially) and women's studies. Also, I had to meet an internship requirement for my major and also wanted to get a bit more 'real world' experience.

### ***What are you doing now?***

Currently, I'm a technical writer for Cvent, a SaaS (software as a service) company based in McLean. After graduating college in 2013, I also completed a development and events internship with NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia and worked for a start-up called Relay Foods. Also, I'm just about to start up as an online hotline volunteer with RAINN.

### ***How did your work at DC SAFE impact your life?***

Working at SAFE impacted my life in that I don't think I would have ever encountered so many talented, smart, and passionate women all in one place! Compared to my current work environment, I feel really glad that one of my first experiences in a professional setting was with SAFE; in that it was supportive, collaborative, but also incredibly focused and driven. Also, it just generally opened my eyes to a very real and serious issue that impacts so many members of the Washington, DC community that needs attention. I grew up in Arlington, Virginia but my family has long been in the Washington, DC area and I don't know if I would have worked with the advocates and survivors that I did had I not interned with SAFE.

### ***What would you tell prospective interns and volunteers?***

I would tell prospective interns and volunteers that it truly is an amazing organization. As I've been writing out these responses, I'm remembering the people I got to work with and I'm just incredibly glad I got to do so the summer I interned. That said, I would also say to them, do more! Volunteer for more ride-alongs or anything else you can.

## **PERRI KRUSE**

### **ON-CALL ADVOCACY INTERN**

#### **SUMMER 2014**

#### ***What interested you about interning with DC SAFE?***

During the summer between my UCLA MSW program (and after living in California my entire life), I decided I wanted to expand my knowledge about gender-based violence on a national level, and understand the similarities and/or differences across state lines. I came with a strong understanding of domestic violence through my many trainings, hearing stories from survivors and those impacted, and after surviving domestic violence myself. I felt DC SAFE's mission, location, and the intersection of both micro and macro work would be powerful and important for my development as a social worker.

#### ***What are you doing now?***

I recently graduated from UCLA with my MSW, and have been working for the last two years on developing and shaping sexual assault policy on University of California college campuses, under the direction of President Janet Napolitano. I am currently a social worker at DC organization, Community Connections, assuming the role of Assistant Team Leader for Young Mother's with co-occurring disorders and trauma.



#### ***How did your work at DC SAFE impact your life?***

I was fortunate enough to work in an extremely supportive environment, with those that shared the same passion as I. I was able to gain extensive knowledge on the judicial system in the District, and challenges/barriers in accessing resources in the area. I gained a special appreciation for the two DV judges in the Superior Courthouse, and realized the importance of having judges with this specialized knowledge working on survivor's cases—as Los Angeles is sorely lacking in this area.

#### ***What would you tell prospective interns and volunteers?***

At DC SAFE you will be treated as a professional and given a great deal of independence, along with a real-life experience and understanding of domestic violence. Get involved in as many areas of the organization that you can (i.e. ride-alongs, crisis hotline, research, court advocacy). You will be challenged, fulfilled, and appreciated.

Interested in learning more about interning with DC SAFE? Please refer to our **website** for directions on how to apply.