

Eloise Repeczky
Human Rights Campaign, Summer 2010
Washington, D.C.

Executive Summary

This summer I interned for the Human Rights Campaign, specifically for the Development department and the Major Gifts team. The Human Rights Campaign is the nation's largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization with a grassroots force of over 750,000 members and supporters nationwide. The Human Rights Campaign's goal is to help the LGBT community have basic equal rights, and can be open, honest and safe at home, at work, and in their community. HRC accomplishes its goals through the Human Rights Campaign Foundation that has various programs that help HRC promote its causes. The HRC Foundation utilizes research, educational efforts and outreach, to encourage LGBT Americans to live their lives openly and seeks to change the hearts and minds of Americans to the side of equality. The HRC Foundation is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, whereas the Human Rights Campaign is a 501(c)(4) organization, which is not a tax-exempt organization. Both of these organizations work together to create programs, initiatives, and to produce grassroots actions in diverse communities to elect fair-minded individuals to office as it also educates the public about LGBT issues. The HRC Foundation has created numerous initiatives to promote HRC's goals, such as the HRC Diversity Program, the HRC Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program, the HRC Religion and Faith Program, the HRC Workplace Project, the HRC Youth and Campus Outreach Program, the HRC Family Project initiative, and the HRC Coming Out Project.

As an intern for the Development Department and more specifically for the Major Gifts Team, I had numerous daily tasks to fulfill as well as more important monthly projects. The Major Gifts team is responsible for donors that give more than \$5,000 to HRC and I was to help facilitate the acknowledgment process. When a new or renewal letter arrived I was responsible for keeping track of the account and printing out confirmations to be mailed to the donor. I was also responsible for sending a packet to the donor with information about the various organizations or programs that they contributed to, and for rewriting the acknowledgment letter that informed the donor about potential activities that they could become involved in. Once I completed the daily tasks of putting together the acknowledgment letters I was responsible for researching potential major gifts donors and working on other research projects. In being the sole intern for the Major Gifts team I was able to witness how a large organization relies on the Major Gifts Officers to coordinate with donors and to maintain working relationships with them. I also had the opportunity to work closely with the staff to fully understand their roles and how important their work is to making HRC's goals a reality.

My supervisor was extremely helpful and always kept me busy, and when I had some free time he made sure that I had a filing project to work on if there were no other tasks for me to complete. I was happy to help them accomplish this larger filing task and realized that it was very helpful to do this menial task. I truly enjoyed this working environment since the people I worked with were all extremely driven, and it was an incredible experience to be able to work for a cause that I believe in. I had a wonderful opportunity to work closely with the Development staff and it helped confirm that I would enjoy working for a non-profit organization.