

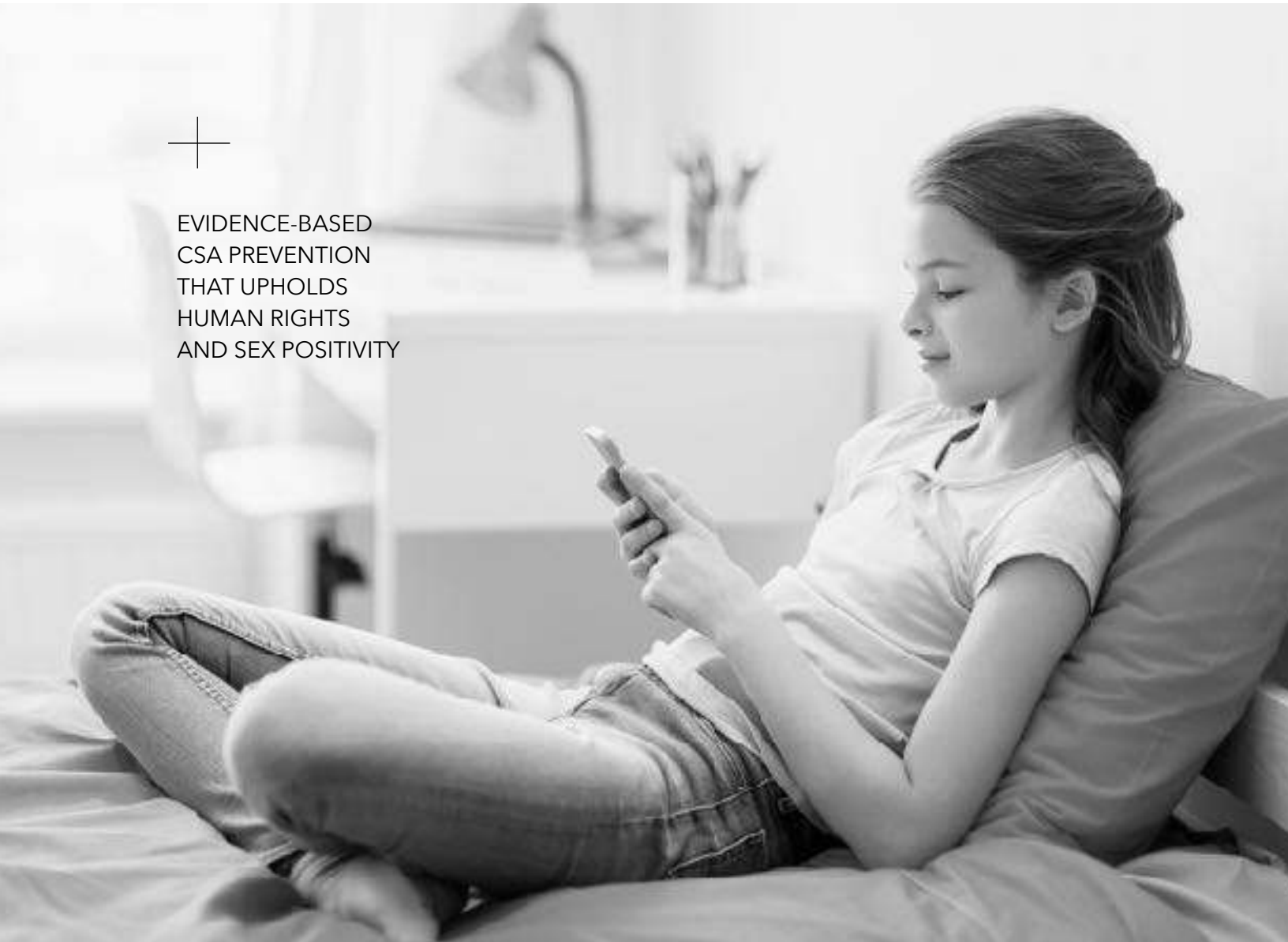


PROSTASIA
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT



EVIDENCE-BASED
CSA PREVENTION
THAT UPHOLDS
HUMAN RIGHTS
AND SEX POSITIVITY



2018

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INTRODUCTION

Advancements in the prevention of child sexual abuse will follow from taking a nuanced, evidence-based approach that engages with all segments of the community. It won't come from doubling down on a punitive agenda that is based on harmful stereotypes and driven by tabloid headlines.

In the haze of righteous anger and revulsion that fuels the latter approach, it has been too easy for lawmakers to overlook the human rights impacts of laws such as FOSTA (Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act), and too difficult to raise legitimate questions about the effectiveness of such laws.

This has perpetrated significant harm to the health and livelihood of already marginalized groups such as sex workers, the LGBTQ+ community, sexually active young people, and those who are trying to avoid offending or reoffending. It also puts children at greater risk, by depriving them of the contribution that these stigmatized groups could bring to child sexual abuse prevention.

When existing child protection organizations failed to stand up for the human rights of sex workers and Internet users when FOSTA was signed into law this April, a group of experts and activists

came together to form ProStasia Foundation: a fearless new advocacy and research organization that embraces stigmatized groups as partners in our evidence-based mission to protect children from sexual abuse.

Today, ProStasia Foundation is rising to become the only child protection organization with the courage to promote a primary prevention approach that is human rights focused, and inclusive of sex-positive communities. Like other similar groups we are intolerant of child sexual abuse, but unlike them we are not intolerant of unconventional or even controversial approaches towards its prevention.

We firmly believe that every member of our community has something to contribute towards child sexual abuse prevention. And our Board of Directors and Advisory Council reflects the diversity of the communities with which we engage in this vital mission. As 2018 draws to a close, this report records how ProStasia Foundation has begun to forge its unique path.

CAMPAIGNING FOR EFFECTIVE LAWS



WE PROMOTE
LAWS THAT ARE
EFFECTIVE AND
UPHOLD
HUMAN RIGHTS



Losing no time following our launch, Prostasia began our work on legal and policy advocacy, the promotion and dissemination of research, and the primary prevention of sexual abuse. Our legal advocacy campaigns this year have focused on four laws, and on the effects of these laws on the behaviors of Internet platforms:

- FOSTA is currently under challenge in Federal Court, and Prostasia Foundation will be writing an *amicus curiae* (friend of the court) brief in support of the plaintiffs. We were the first organization that linked FOSTA to the censorship of sexual information online; raising concrete concerns about how information about child sexual abuse prevention was being removed from major Internet platforms. Months later, media commentators are only now beginning to draw this same connection, as Tumblr and Facebook introduce new bans on sexual expression online, with particular impact on minorities. Utilizing connections from Executive team and from the Internet industry representatives on our Advisory Council, we are actively engaging with Internet platforms to alert them to the harms that over-censorship of sexual information can cause.
- The CREEPER Act, that would have banned sex dolls or robots that resemble minors, was a politically opportunistic bill that had little chance of not being passed unanimously, due to the stigma that would taint any politician who opposed it. Yet scientists are actively investigating the hypothesis that such dolls could have therapeutic benefits, that could result in an overall reduction of child sexual abuse. Following the law's passage through the House of Representatives, Prostasia

Foundation took the unpopular but important position of advocating against the law, writing to all 100 U.S. Senators with our concerns that further research was needed before banning such dolls. Following our intervention, the law was held back from the floor of the Senate, and its proponent has now left office.

- The Protecting Against Child Exploitation Act, although well-intended, would have done the opposite than its name suggests: it would have exposed young people who are engaged in “sexting” behavior with other young people to the risk of lifelong criminal sanctions. For example, requesting a sexual selfie from a romantic partner could expose a young person to a minimum term of 15 years imprisonment and registration as a sexual offender—even if that partner didn’t comply with the request. We coordinated a letter writing campaign to oppose this ill-considered law, which conflates developmentally normal teenage sexual behavior with trafficking in images of brutal child sexual abuse. Like the CREEPER Act, the Protecting Against Child Exploitation Act passed the House of Representatives but failed to progress in the Senate.

- We supported California law SB 1198, which will improve the way that the state’s criminal justice system deals with juveniles who offend. It is not widely understood that about a third of those who commit child sexual abuse are themselves juveniles; most of these offenders are not pedophiles, and will not go on to offend during adulthood. SB 1198 will ensure that the latest evidence on this topic is incorporated into California’s existing fact-based approach to sentencing and rehabilitation. It will also fund new studies about juvenile recidivism and rehabilitation that will fill gaps in our existing knowledge. Through a cooperative arrangement with the National Adolescent Perpetration Network (NAPN), Prostasia Foundation has also promoted the availability of effective non-carceral approaches to the prevention of juvenile offending.

DEFENDING THE INNOCENT



WE ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE WITH DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS

Aside from laws, corporate policies are also important mechanisms for the prevention of child sexual abuse. Our focus this year has been specifically on the policies of Internet platforms. Throughout the year, we have reached out to these platforms, and several of them have agreed to meet with us to discuss our concerns. Acting as a bridge between the Internet industry and the stakeholder and expert groups whom we represent, we have been able to alert them to shortcomings in their efforts to protect their platforms from misuse, and to offer to work with them to craft and implement more consistent, inclusive, and evidence-informed rules.

One platform that we have identified as having failed to meet current industry best practices is the Russian search engine, Yandex. In 2013, Google and Microsoft tuned their search engine algorithms to exclude search results from which unlawful images of child sexual abuse could be accessed. Common search phrases that are associated with such images will now fail to return links to illegal images on either Google or Bing

search engines. However, links to illegal images are still returned in response to similar searches using Yandex. We have launched a petition to Yandex pointing out how unacceptable this is, and urging it to bring its search algorithm into line with best practice standards.

Conversely however, we are also monitoring measures that have apparently resulted in the over-censorship of sexual information on search engines, social media, blogging and chat platforms. This results in harm not only to freedom of expression online, but also to young people whose sexual health depends upon access to accurate and complete information and support resources. During the year, we called out Discord, Medium, and Tumblr for over-censoring sexual speech, including in some cases the removal of entire blogs and communities of mental health experts and other child sexual abuse professionals. As a service, we offer advice to platforms on how they can comply with FOSTA, without over-censoring legitimate speech about sex.



We are also monitoring future developments from Internet platforms in this space, giving particular attention to how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used in the fight against child sexual abuse. We are an enthusiastic supporter of the use of hash-based image filtering technologies, which are an existing voluntary industry best practice. Although we welcome advances in such technologies, we have identified privacy and security concerns in new experimental tools that Google and Facebook have independently developed to algorithmically detect abusive images that have not already been identified and included in hash databases. We have also raised similar questions, that are currently unanswered, about new AI tools that attempt to identify the sexual grooming of children online.

The early and comprehensive resolution of questions about these new technologies will enable them to be brought into widespread use as soon as their effectiveness and compliance with human rights standards can be demonstrated. As such we have been in touch with Google, Microsoft, Facebook, the Internet Watch Foundation, the Child Rescue Coalition, and Thorn to request further information about their respective tools. We have also initiated a Freedom of Information request to obtain details of technical specifications supplied by the United Kingdom governments to Internet platforms. A major project of ours in 2019 will be the development of an independent report on the accountability and transparency of these platforms' child protection technologies.

We have engaged in several high profile industry events at which we have communicated our findings on how platform policies are supporting child sexual abuse prevention, or are failing to do so. These include:

- At the 2018 Internet Governance Forum held in November, ProStasia Foundation held a Lightning Talk session titled "Internet Platforms, Sexual Content, and Child Protection," which was presented by Dr Craig Harper, a member of our Advisory Council and a Senior Lecturer within the Department of Psychology at Nottingham Trent University. Dr Harper spoke about how taking an evidence-based approach could benefit Internet companies in their efforts to prevent their platforms being misused to facilitate child sexual abuse.
- Later in November, we attended an event titled "Child Online Grooming: Working Together for Maximum Impact" which was organized by Microsoft, WePROTECT, and the United Kingdom Government. At this event we introduced ourself to the world's largest Internet platforms and to participants from government, advocating for our prevention-focused approach that upholds civil liberties. As a result of our participation in this event we established new contacts that we will draw upon in 2019 as we continue our outreach with Internet platforms and policymakers.
- Also in November we attended an exclusive invitation-only event at Facebook's offices in Berlin, titled "Hard Topics Deep Dive." This even enabled us to interact directly with the policy staff at Facebook on a series of exercises designed to explore the boundaries of difficult areas of content moderation, and to give overall feedback of the transparency and fairness of the process. In the same week we attended the annual conference of the Freedom Online Coalition, joining other global experts in exploring how human rights can be upheld while protecting vulnerable users from the effects of misuse of the Internet.

PROMOTING PRIMARY PREVENTION



PROMOTING
RESEARCH
THAT AIDS CSA
PREVENTION



Although we fulfil an important and underserved role as a human rights watchdog for the child protection community, our highest priority lies in our positive agenda for child sexual abuse prevention. We are committed to the ideal that for every act of child sexual abuse, there is a point at which the child in question could have been saved, if only the right information and support resources were made available.

Child sexual abusers are often characterized as uniquely evil individuals, and some child protection groups focus on the minority of offenders, such as sex traffickers and pedophiles, who most closely fit this stereotype. But most child sexual abuse occurs in the home, by someone the child knows and trusts, and who typically doesn't have a primary sexual attraction towards minors. In fact, anybody can commit child sexual abuse—but nobody is predestined to do so.

This is a difficult message for people to hear, but a vitally important one. That's why one of our most important activities is community education through blog articles on our website, which we

[Tor can be misused to find CP | But help is available to stop | Prostasia Foundation](#)
www.prostasia.org
We are the only child protection organization that also supports a free and open Internet. CP is illegal and harms children. Find out about safe, legal, and...

[Most Tor network users hate CP | Are you one of them? | Donate or learn more](#)
www.prostasia.org
You support a secure, encrypted, and private web. You don't support child abuse. If you're unsure, follow this link for help, or to donate towards sexual abuse prevention.

[Are you looking for CP? | Get help before it's too late | Confidential and anonymous](#)
www.prostasia.org
Offending is not the only way. There are alternatives and people who understand. Making the right choice is safer for you, and may save a child.

syndicate through our social media channels on Twitter, Facebook, Google+, Instagram, and LinkedIn. To date our articles have covered topics such as primary prevention of child sexual abuse, eliminating child sexual abuse material without over-censoring speech, teen sexting, sex dolls and robots, criminal justice issues, how to protect minors using Kik Messenger, the #MeToo movement, and several other topics, with an average of about two new articles every month.

But the reach of our website and social media accounts is quite limited. Many people who need to hear that abuse can be prevented will never see those messages, unless we proactively deliver it to them. That's why Prostasia Foundation, with in-kind support from Google, is using search ads to provide information about child sexual abuse prevention to those who seem to be at risk of offending, based on search terms that indicate that they may be searching for images of child sexual abuse. Since we launched this project, over 1200 people have encountered our advertisements (shown below) and clicked through to our website to read more.

Our ambitions don't end there. In 2019, we will be hosting an event titled "Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Internet Platforms, Sexual Content, and Child Protection" in San Francisco, with involvement from Microsoft, Patreon, the Internet Society, the Internet Watch Foundation, the Free Speech Coalition, and others. This event will bring together Internet platform representatives in a private expert-led seminar and open discussion about best practices for policies that would protect children, while avoiding unforeseen impacts that would infringe on the human rights of children or others.

OUR TEAM



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Jeremy Malcolm, PhD is a lawyer, human rights activist, and father of two boys. Prior to his work at ProStasia he held the position of Senior Global Policy Analyst at the Electronic Frontier Foundation.



Cathy Gellis is a lawyer with a practice focused on intellectual property, free speech, intermediary liability, privacy, and other innovation policy matters affecting technology use and development.



Pearl Regalado is a fashion designer, visual artist, and entrepreneur. She has first hand experience in communities of CSA survivors, sex workers, and kink practitioners.

Our initial Board of Directors included another member, Jaylen Maclaren, who is a survivor of child sexual abuse and a former sex worker, who began performing sex work when she was a minor. Jaylen told part of her story in our crowdfunding video. Jaylen resigned from the Board for personal reasons ahead of our August 2018 launch, and was replaced temporarily by Meagan Ingerman, and later by Cathy Gellis.



STAFF



Meagan Ingerman is a childcare and child development specialist with over ten years as a provider, tutor, and consultant. She has engaged in multiple forms of sex work and has ties to the organized kink community.



Jeff White is Prostasia's Research Associate. He is a social science major (U-MN Morris) who assists with research, social media tasks, and is a liaison between Prostasia and its stakeholder communities.



ADVISORY COUNCIL



Craig Harper, PhD is a Lecturer in Human Psychology, and based at Nottingham Trent University. The bulk of his work has examined public attitudes within a forensic context, particularly in relation to sexual crime.



Gilian Tenbergen, PhD is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of Psychology with SUNY Oswego, specializing in the neurobiology of pedophilia and its translation into the prevention of child sexual abuse.



Ian O'Brien is Senior Director of Programs and Operations at the Free Speech Coalition. O'Brien attended graduate school at Columbia University's prestigious Mailman School of Public Health.



James Cantor, PhD is a clinical psychologist and neuroscientist, internationally recognized for his research on the causes of pedophilia over the past 20 years. Dr. Cantor is the Director of the Toronto Sexuality Centre.



Maggie McNeill is a writer, sex worker, and former librarian. She writes a daily blog called "The Honest Courtesan" which examines the realities, myths, history, lore, science, philosophy, art, and every other aspect of prostitution.



Nerea Vega Lucio's thesis for her bachelor of medicine was on the topic of CSA prevention, non-offending pedophiles, and the use of social networks as therapeutic tools.



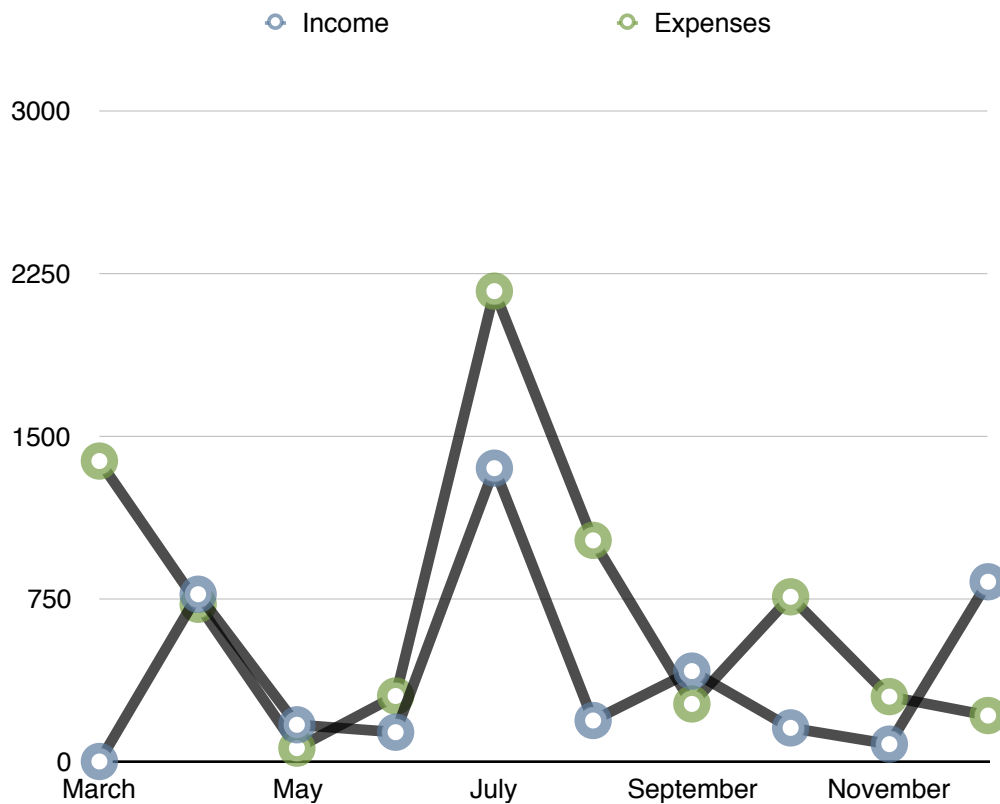
Guy Hamilton-Smith is a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Law and is the Sex Offense Litigation and Policy fellow at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law.

There are also three other standing members of our Advisory Council who do not currently have a public profile.

FINANCES

One of the most remarkable achievements of Prostasia Foundation in its first year is that it has been able to accomplish so much with only grassroots financial support. To date, apart from some in-kind support for travel and meeting expenses, we have received no funding from industry or from government. Our average donation is approximately \$60, and no single donor contributed more than 10% of our revenue.

The secret to our frugality lies in the incredible contributions that our volunteers have made to building Prostasia Foundation into the success that it has quickly become. Our Executive Director has been working full-time as a volunteer since June, and our other staff and our entire Advisory Council have been volunteering part time. During 2019, we plan to diversify our funding, and to establish more sustainable long-term funding for our core expenses.



Account balances	
Name	Balance
Copyright licenses	\$308.05
Credit card	-\$3,417.31
Web hosting credit	\$725.34
Founder loan	-\$3,229.43
Office equipment	\$673.11
US Bank	\$1583.46
<i>Sum of sums</i>	-\$3,356.78

Income vs. Expenses	
In	\$4,099.31
Out	-\$7,486.09
Difference	-\$3,386.78

As a nonprofit in its first year, this year's deficit budget is expected. Supporting this temporary deficit, Prostasia Foundation has a line of credit from its bank, and a loan from its founder. We aim to clear our deficit in 2019 once we secure more sustainable funding from a charitable foundation. In the meantime, Prostasia Foundation remains solvent.

Revenue/Income	
Name	Total
Crowdfunding	\$1,449.94
Donations	\$2,351.77
Memberships	\$65.00
Sales	\$78.00
Interest	\$0.20
Miscellaneous	\$154.00
<i>Sum</i>	\$4,099.31

Expenses	
Name	Total
Web development and design	-\$1,127.71
Communications	-\$1,046.46
Graphics and multimedia	-\$950.00
Events	-\$825.20
Travel	-\$735.91
Office supplies	-\$766.38
Petty cash	-\$500.00
Taxes & Licenses	-\$384.00
Startup costs	-\$372.50
Mailbox rental	-\$230.43
Interest paid	-\$169.42
Memberships	-\$99.00
Hosting fees	-\$96.00
Bank fees	-\$68.24
Entertainment	-\$41.59
Cost of Goods Sold	-\$31.20
Salaries and benefits	-\$17.63
<i>Sum</i>	-\$7,486.09