## 2022 Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice
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Dear Legacy Fund Supporters,

I am deeply grateful for your generous contribution to the Brandeis Social Justice WOW Fellowship Award. I would not have been able to grow and learn more about where my passions lie if it were not for your support. As a low-income international student, I really needed the income to support myself during my internship. I would not have had such incredible career and networking opportunities otherwise.

This summer, I interned at United for a Fair Economy, a nonprofit organization that advocates and fights for a more equal distribution of wealth. United for a Fair Economy really made me more aware of how unfairly wealth is divided in the United States. Through its various events and programs, the organization educated me more on how wealth is deeply connected to race and ethnicity in this country. For instance, UFE has a program called Responsible Wealth, composed of some of the country’s wealthiest people who believe there should be a more equal distribution of wealth. They advocate for policies such as higher taxation for those who are among the richest in the nation. Jeanette Huezo, the executive director of United for a Fair Economy, hosts workshops where she trains leaders within a community to empower them with the right tools to maximize their impact on their society. I worked directly with the Communications Director, Richard Lindsey. I worked alongside him to edit and publish videos for UFE. Through my work with video editing, I was able to advance my skills in Adobe Premiere and Canva. I enjoyed the fact that I was given almost complete creative freedom, and I had constant communication with my supervisor. My work was gratifying.

The people at UFE are all welcoming and friendly. It was easy to connect with everyone, and I appreciate how everyone was so included and ready to help each other. We all had lunch once to welcome a new staff member, and it was enjoyable to get to know some people I had only seen through Zoom before.

I am double majoring in International and Global Studies and Politics, intending to go into Law school. My summer internship at United for a Fair Economy reinforced my desire to follow this path. I learned much more about how race is deeply connected to wealth and income in the United States. I am very interested in immigration law, so learning more about how minorities are disproportionately disadvantaged in this economy is very important.

This internship has also exposed me to an actual workplace and helped me learn how to build professional relationships and networks. I learned more about my work style and employers’ expectations. I am incredibly grateful for your contribution to the Brandeis Social Justice WOW Fellowship Award because if it were not for your help, I would not have been able to have such a beneficial and incredible summer opportunity.

Monica Alfaro
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I want to start by saying my summer this year was perhaps the most inspiring experience. Thanks to your donation, I’ve grown into a much more confident and liberated black woman and I am truly grateful.

Now that we’re at the end of the summer, I’ve thought about what this summer experience has meant for me and my dream career as a gynecologist. I came to Brandeis University from a prominent Afro and Latinx community in the Bronx, New York. I’ve seen family members and friends struggle with either receiving proper healthcare or being knowledgeable about their health. And no one seemed to know what help or resources were out there. This was always a frustration for me. However, this fellowship has challenged me to channel that anger into action. To understand the systematic problems that are faced by Black or Latinx women and work to develop solutions to these problems, my internship at Resilience Sisterhood Project (RSP) was the best experience I could’ve accepted.

During my internship, I saw the same kind of eagerness to make a change in Black communities in need of education and empowerment with respect to reproductive and maternal health. As a nonprofit based in Boston, RSP’s mission is centered on building the confidence of women in the African diaspora through education on reproductive diseases that disproportionately affects them. RSP has created informative articles and hosted webinars and events all discussing obstetric complications, incarceration injustices, environmental concerns, and community outreach as it relates to reproductive health in Black women.

When I found out about my summer project, I was super ecstatic because I was ready to learn and provide a resource for other Black women. I focussed my resource guide on endometriosis--a condition that many women like myself know little about. Endometriosis is still misunderstood and yet disproportionately affects our Black women and girls nationwide. Endometriosis is commonly misdiagnosed as Pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) in Black women and often delays diagnosis and treatment. In addition to researching endometriosis, I spent a lot of time hearing about real-life experiences of Black women who have endometriosis. From their stories and conducting my own research, I (along with RSP) created an informative guide for women curious to learn about endometriosis, why misdiagnosis is so common, and what changes Black women with endometriosis can make to better support their health.

I gained much more from this internship experience than I’d ever anticipated. In the end, it was more than learning about a reproductive disease or creating a resource guide. What was important was empowering women affected by this condition, creating an educational space, and delivering impactful change for the community. To me, this is the essence of social activism, it’s being a voice for others and a source of empowerment. This was an amazing lesson to learn and an opportunity to experience because it’s given me the tools I have needed to inspire change in my community back at home. I’m ready to be someone who creates new and innovative ways of dismantling deep-rooted problems that unjustly impact healthcare for Black women and protect their right to quality reproductive/maternal health.

I hope my story and others inspired you the way I’ve been inspired and moved this summer!

Sincerely,
Priscilla Appenteng
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to express immense gratitude for your generous support to Brandeis students that are committed to the “Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship” program. Through your support, a substantial amount of students were able to pursue their dream internship that they otherwise might not be able to. This type of educational support not only impacts the WOW students but also the programs/internships that they were engaged in. Because of this fellowship program I was given the opportunity to work on a passion of mine over the summer.

My name is Jovana Bijelic and I am a senior with a double major in Health: Science, Society, and Policy Program and Biology. My passion lies in working with humanitarian organizations to address the social injustices of worldwide healthcare inequity and poverty. This summer I was able to do exactly that due to your kind-hearted support!

“Pokreni Život” means “Start Life”

I worked with a Serbian humanitarian organization known as Pokreni Život which directly organizes humanitarian projects and events for indigent families and individuals that are in dire need of shelter and resources to survive. The organization also raises funds to provide financial assistance to kids in Serbia with lethal health issues to go abroad and receive quality medical attention. Here is an example of a family that lived in poor living conditions, with the mom suffering from an agonizing eye disease, and the father working to make ends meet for them. Pokreni Život (through generous donations from the public) was able to renovate their home and give them a fresh start at life. The children have a warm, well equipped home to live in now and further their education.

I chose this field for my internship because my own family was impoverished and in life threatening situations due to poverty, wars, and occupations. These situations cause great suffering among the most disadvantaged communities which is why I believe it is important for organizations such as “Pokreni Život” to exist.

This experience will help me continue working with humanitarian organizations as I have absorbed the fundamentals of how they function. I was involved in coming up with fundraising ideas, facilitating fundraising and opening new donation boxes in various locations around the country in order to raise aid. I have grasped the difficulties, the logistics, the effort and the persistence it takes to organize and run a foundation. Fortunately, I realized that a small youth-run organization can make a vast difference on the lives of many through the help of generous citizens and donors.

With gratitude,
Jovana Bijelic

Pictured is Ognjen Milcic who needs monthly funds for brain tumor therapy. “Pokreni Život” works to raise funds for his treatment.
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for contributing to the Social Justice World of Work Fellowship at Brandeis! Without your help, I never would have been able to pursue my summer internship at Legal Outreach’s Summer Law Institute. I am incredibly grateful for your generosity and kindness, and it is inspiring to see how many people are willing to support students in their social justice endeavors. My experience at Legal Outreach this summer allowed me to grow as a student, an employee, and a mentor.

My name is Jenna Blocher, and I am a rising junior at Brandeis majoring in HSSP (Health, Science, Society, and Policy) with minors in Legal Studies and French and Francophone Studies. I am also planning to attend law school after graduation. I have always had a passion for social justice, but I never knew of a specific career in law that focused on social justice. However, when I took an internship with the Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association in Spring 2022, I immediately knew what I wanted to do with my legal degree. VLP is a non-profit organization that works to provide free legal services to those who cannot afford them, with the main goal of overcoming financial barriers that prevent impoverished people from receiving fair representation. After working with VLP, I knew that I wanted to work in another legal non-profit, which is how I started working with Legal Outreach.

Legal Outreach is an educational organization founded by lawyers in New York City, with the intent of opening up educational opportunities to all students in NYC, regardless of financial status, race, religion, or ethnicity, and to bridge the educational gaps that these students face on a daily basis. Legal Outreach has a variety of different programs, but the most popular is the Summer Law Institute. The SLI is a 5-week criminal law course for rising 9th-grade students, taught by current law students. The SLI is hosted at 6 different law schools throughout NYC, where the students take exams, write essays, take field trips to law firms, and participate in a mock trial at the end of the program. The goal of the program is to encourage young students of color to pursue a career in the legal field, and to provide them with the skills they need to achieve their goals.

I spent my summer working as a Coordinating Intern with the SLI at Cardozo School of Law, where I assisted the Legal Teaching Fellows with grading and student file organization, along with teaching weekly courses on note-taking, essay writing, plagiarism, public speaking, and so on. I developed incredible relationships with our 19 students, and it brought me an incredible amount of pride to see how much they grew throughout the course of the program. I cannot wait to continue to watch these students succeed throughout their educational and professional careers, and I could not have played a role in their journey without your help. Your generosity and support allowed Brandeis students to make a difference this summer, and we are incredibly grateful.

Sincerely,
Jenna Blocher
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Lily Bresler and I am a senior studying Politics and Legal Studies. This summer I interned at the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) which is part of the Boston Bar Association. VLP works to provide legal assistance for low income people living in the Boston Area. I worked in VLP's Housing Unit, which primarily aids people facing eviction. My work involved conducting intake interviews with clients and helping them draft documents pertinent to their case. I also wrote referral memos to connect clients with pro-bono attorneys. Additionally, I kept track of the clients that worked with the Housing Unit and documented exactly what services VLP provided them with.

As I mentioned, my internship at VLP gave me the opportunity to work directly with clients. This was the most challenging yet also the most rewarding part of my experience. These interactions were often emotionally taxing as VLP's clients often are facing a number of stressful circumstances. Almost all the clients I met were facing eviction. Being evicted is a painful and difficult process under any circumstance however it tends to be especially problematic for the population that VLP serves. The Boston area has a severe shortage of affordable housing. Therefore, the clients VLP aids with their eviction cases often need to stay in their current unit because they are unlikely to find another one in their same area. This means that if our clients do get evicted, they may face homelessness. Having the opportunity to work with these clients directly impacted me greatly. It made it clear to me just how much pressure and stress VLP’s clients are under. However, they handle this stress with grace and patience which is truly inspiring.

This process also reminded me of the stakes of the work VLP does. Landlords are often more likely to be able to afford an attorney than their tenants. This is an injustice VLP seeks to rectify. Getting to be a part of the valuable work that VLP is doing was a truly wonderful experience. I am definitely interested in pursuing a career in legal aid going forwards. I am very grateful that this experience was made possible by the WOW Fellowship program and its supporters.

Thank you so much!
Lily Bresler
Dear supporters of the Brandeis Legacy Fund,

I would like to first thank you for your support of World of Work Social Justice. With your support I was able to work in a field I’m highly passionate about and gain valuable experience. My internship over summer has given me greater wisdom and knowledge. I also came away with a better understanding of the kind of work I want to do in my field.

This summer I worked as a case management intern at Someone Cares Atlanta. Someone Cares is a not-for-profit that originally started H.I.V. clinic but expanded to support other groups of people in need such as people struggling with substance abuse issues and trans people. As a case management intern, I was responsible for meeting with clients helping them obtain access to resources like food stamps, housing, and/or health insurance. During my internship I mainly worked with substance abuse clients. Many of them were homeless and low or no income and need assistance in obtaining a social security card or I.D. I also help assist in the running of the intensive outpatient program (IOP) group for substance abuse clients. I also assisted with data entry, tabling events, and witnessing drug tests.

These internships gave me valuable insights into the world of nonprofits and the public health field. Through working with clients, I was able to see the like between mental health and substance. Mental illness can often be comorbid for substance abuse issues. Often someone might turn to illicit use substances to help manage undiagnosed mental illness. I found this very interesting and it is something I’m looking forward to exploring further in my studies.

During My internship I also learned more about myself. I realized that I am able to solve even high-pressure situations. I also enjoy learning and taking in new information by asking questions and first-hand experience. I realized that I am more committed and driven than I initially realized. These realizations have helped me and have increased my self-confidence. Overall the World Work fellowship has enabled me to have internship experience where I was able to learn and grow.

Sincerely,

Xavier Butler
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for your endless support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. With this fellowship, I was able to pursue a career path at the intersection of education equity, social justice, and impact.

This summer, I supported the “Idea-to-Impact E-Lab,” which is Fulphil’s social entrepreneurship curriculum. Our comprehensive, multifaceted project-based curriculum enforces the entrepreneurial mindset and teaches students the importance of critical & community-based thinking, problem solving, and collaboration & teamwork. Fulphil’s curricula is accomplishing the long-term vision of accessibility and inclusion in education, as well as making education engaging and practical. This catalyzes equal access to economic mobility for all youth regardless of background or origin.

I aspire to equip marginalized youths with the skill sets necessary for the modern workforce and to ensure success and growth every step along the way. By directly empowering students with a social entrepreneurship education, students will be propelled to take on a global citizen mindset to be catalysts of change in their own communities.

My responsibilities include managing and developing the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion curriculum while assisting the development, planning, and writing of other curriculums in Social Entrepreneurship and Financial Literacy. In addition to crafting curriculums, I created slides that teachers across the country can use in their classrooms as supplementary materials to the curriculum.

I’m overall inspired by Fulphil’s mission and the individuals I’ve had the pleasure to meet—all passionate about creating social change through education. Once again, thank you for your support in upholding Brandeis’ social justice commitment and for your contributions in allowing me to explore my career interests at Fulphil.

Sincerely,
Bonnie Chen
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for your support of Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship. This summer, I was able to give back to my community and intern at my alma mater, Our Sisters’ School of New Bedford, Massachusetts. Your generosity enabled me to not only repay those who have supported me, but provided me experience within the education and non-profit sectors.

I am a junior, studying Health: Science, Society and Policy with a minor in African and African American Studies. My studies aim to analyze access to education and healthcare in regards to disparities related to race and socio-economic status. My internship this summer placed me in the center of every social issue I aspire to advocate for.

**Our Sisters’ School (OSS)** is an independent, tuition-free, non-sectarian middle school that educates and inspires economically disadvantaged girls from the greater New Bedford area. OSS provides unique experiences to students whose economic status disables them from obtaining certain opportunities. Through providing a rigorous and engaging environment at no costs to families, they start to assuage the equity gaps within education. OSS shares my same commitment to improving my greater community and while I have an established relationship with them as an alumna, I was able to gain professional experience under a team of passionate advocates and educators. During my time there I had a range of responsibilities such as:

- Supporting current students in their academic and social lives
- Helping the Summer Program Director design learning experiences, prep materials, organize and set up lessons for the day, instruct/support students and clean
- Supporting the Creative Suite: STEAM and Arts program.
- Supporting health teachers/health curriculum by attending classes, working as a mentor, observing and interacting with students.
- Working in the Graduate Support Program to help support, communicate with and share resources with OSS graduates as they transition into high school, college and beyond.

The unique aspect of nonprofits is the unwavering commitment of the staff to the organization’s cause. To describe OSS’ team as dedicated is an understatement. As I worked to incorporate social justice in an educational context this summer, I realized that we need to help students redefine themselves. When working with kids from economically disadvantaged areas, there are more obstacles than what appears on the surface. OSS successfully educates students because they provide a space for authenticity and recreation. When a student can view themselves as capable and intelligent, we see the barriers begin to dissipate.

I am honored to have spent my summer back at my home base, where the foundation was set for me. I genuinely associate my personal and academic successes to the characteristics that were instilled in me during my time at OSS. I am eager to see what the future will hold for them. Thank you again for enabling me to complete this work.

Sincerely,

Ava Faria
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you, Supporters of the Legacy Fund, for enabling students to pursue social justice work and develop their interests and passions. This summer, with your help, I was able to build on my studies at Brandeis as a Policy Intern for the National Consumers League. As a member of the Class of 2023, with majors in International Global Studies and Latin American Studies, this experience introduced me to the world of public policy, a fundamental mechanism for enacting positive social change.

Founded in 1899, NCL focuses on research, advocacy, and education on some of the most pressing issues affecting consumers including fraud prevention, healthcare, child labor, and workers’ rights. The majority of my work centered on drafting health-related policy statements and blogs. I also attended meetings and briefed NCL staff on specific issues and the meetings they could not attend. The work I am most proud of however, was assisting the Director of Health Policy in her testimony to the Senate Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights. This included helping craft her formal statement, opposition research, and strategy recommendations for the Q&A portion of the hearing.

Over the course of this internship, I honed my communication and policy writing abilities. Due NCL’s involvement with so many coalitions as well as tackling such a diverse range of issues, it was important to stay on top of meetings and deadlines, making effective communication critical to success. In addition, while writing was already one of my strong suits, I learned how to draft public policy statements, where the style is more concise and succinct.

My NCL experience solidified my career interests and dedication to advancing social justice. Over the course of the internship, I learned so much about the health industry and correspondingly, all the ways in which policy-making must be employed to improve public health in the US. I now know that I want to continue this work throughout my career.

I am incredibly grateful for the NCL staff placing their trust in me and my work, by giving me so many important assignments. Through this, I learned that I need to trust myself and recognize the value I bring to the table. From apologizing less to voicing my opinions in meetings, this is something I will continue to carry with me for the rest of my life.

Eric Feigen
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing this letter to formally express my gratitude for the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship. I had the opportunity to intern at the Taiwan Law Foundation.

I am Jasmine, a rising senior double majoring in Economics and Applied Mathematics.

The Taiwan Law Foundation (TLF) organizes 40 academic seminars annually, collaborates with researchers and professionals in legal advocacy, and serves as a research institution for judicial reform and policy change in various fields. The TLF has published 33 books and 64 periodicals quarterly since 2014. A specific project that aligns with my research interest is the foundation's publication that reformed the family property law which provides women autonomy over the household. As a summer research intern, I will research how a mother’s educational level and occupational outcome impacts her child/children’s educational level and career outcome. At the initial stage, I will conduct a literature review which consists of relevant publications and perusal of econometrics methodologies and results to understand existing phenomena and trends to better understand this issue. I will then collect, clean, and analyze economic data to build statistical models for the multivariate regression. Once I have the regression model, I can interpret the data and make appropriate policy suggestions. Finally, I will present my research to the foundation in August before the paper is published in the periodical.

Thanks to this professional opportunity, I have improved my SQL, R, and Stata skills. As well as networking skill set. Has this internship helped you clarify your career interests? Not really. Finally, I became aware that I am insecure about what I do not know and incapabilities. However, I am confident enough to ask questions and learn from my shortcomings.

Thanks again!
Jasmine Huang Fu
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for your donation to the Summer 2022 World of Work Social Justice Fellowship Program. Your generous contribution to this Fellowship Program has allowed me the opportunity to pursue an internship with The Right to Immigration Institute, where I was able to witness the law in action and gain real-world experience working with immigration attorneys. This was a truly unique opportunity, especially for a sophomore who is set on attending law school after I graduate from Brandeis.

I came to Brandeis from Maui, Hawaii, and I am double majoring in Politics and International and Global Studies with a minor in Near Eastern and Judaic Studies on the Pre-Law Track. My passion for law dates back to early high school and stems from a dedication to working intimately with individuals to inspire social justice and resolve personal, legal-related issues. Shortly after arriving at Brandeis, I heard of The Right to Immigration Institute (TRII), a non-profit organization based in Waltham, Massachusetts. TRII provides pro bono immigration-related legal services to non-citizens seeking citizenship, asylum, a green card, or a visa. TRII also provides humanitarian assistance in the form of advocating for clients in housing, employment, and school matters, and referring clients to organizations which specialize in rent assistance, access to warm clothes, and food.

I have been volunteering with TRII since last November, when I began a six-month training hosted at the Waltham office to become a Department of Justice Accredited Representative, which I completed in May. Over the course of my internship this summer, I worked on numerous client cases alongside immigration attorneys, doing everything from filling out and filing paperwork, writing affidavits, and preparing clients for their interviews with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. By the end of the summer, I transitioned into meeting and working with one of our clients on my own, which was a huge step in my learning process. I plan to continue to work with TRII throughout my time in college, until I begin to attend law school.

Thank you again for your commitment to ensuring opportunities like this one continue to be accessible and available to undergraduate students. Interning with TRII this summer has not only allowed me to make a leap forward in terms of my legal experience, but has also enabled me to pursue my passion for social justice and affect the lives of real people.

Sincerely,
Peyton Gillespie
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Josh Gladstone and I am a senior majoring in Sociology with minors in Legal studies and Social Justice and Social Policy. I wanted to thank you so much for the opportunities granted to me this summer by the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program at Brandeis. With the help of this fellowship, I was able to work, learn, and grow as both an individual and a professional in an atmosphere that informed me of my future career path.

This summer, I worked at the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination as an Employment Investigative Intern. My job as an Investigative Intake Intern has two main areas of focus. The first was to be an intake specialist. For the function of the Commission to be effective, it needs to be made available to all people alleging discrimination, whether they have the means to afford attorney representation. As such, pro se litigants, or people representing themselves without attorneys, call the Commission to share their story of alleged discrimination in hopes of their experiences falling under the jurisdiction of the Commission to merit a neutral investigation by Investigators to present the facts of their case. As an intake specialist, I was trained to receive those phone calls, hear the stories of the people alleging discrimination, and draft an official Complaint of their narrative as a starting point to be inspected for jurisdiction and potentially start an investigation.

The second part of my duties as an Investigative Intern was to do case management. At the start of the internship, I, along with my fellow interns, were assigned a handful of cases for which we are responsible during our time at the Commission. These responsibilities involve reading each case from front to back, including the stories of those involved to produce outlines and highlight the most important information to move the case along to its next steps.

My position this summer has provided me with new insights regarding my goals for social justice work moving forward. Throughout the summer, one significant takeaway that I have observed and truly experienced is that change within the bureaucracy of an institution (e.g., in a state agency such as MCAD) takes an extensive amount of time and dedication from many involved people. This has been inspirational in that it highlights the passion of so many people, from Interns, to Investigators, to Attorney Advisors, to Commissioners at the MCAD, all of whom are dedicated to anti-discrimination work in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The opportunity that the WOW fund has allowed me to have this summer at the MCAD has further motivated me in my own social justice work. In particular, my experiences at the MCAD have shaped the topic of my senior thesis, so that I am now planning to examine the role of intersectional identities in the institutional racism that persists in the MA legal system. I am also closer to making decisions about my next steps after Brandeis, so that I will be able to acquire the expertise I need to work professionally in public service combating the structural issues that were such obstacles for the Complainants I interacted with at the MCAD. I am truly grateful for the experiences I had as an Intern at the MCAD, and I thank the Hiatt staff and the Legacy fund for their support.

Best,
Josh Gladstone

Photo: My fellow interns outside of the McCormack building where we worked
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Deb Haimowitz, a WOW recipient this past summer. I would like to thank you for your kindness in supporting my summer internship through the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. Your generosity in funding has allowed me to find an internship based solely on my passion for women’s health, and for that I and my fellow recipients are grateful. My internship with NNABI, a women’s health startup focusing on (peri)menopause, this summer has allowed to think more critically about my next steps in schooling and in my career.

I am a senior majoring in Health, Science, and Social Policy (HSSP), with a focus on women’s/maternal health and public health policy. This summer, I worked for NNABI, an up-and-coming company that is developing creative solutions for women experiencing perimenopause, a lesser-known and researched stage in a woman’s reproductive journey. Because of its small size, I felt even as their summer intern that my work was invaluable to the company. I oversaw NNABI’s competitor research, looking through website of other companies and analyzing everything from their prices to their marketing strategies to any charities that they were donating to. This was an extremely helpful skill to learn going forward because it allowed me to think critically about branding and how to properly advertise a product to stick out. I also took part in the company’s audience review, which involved looking through social media sites and taking notes on conversations that women were having about their symptoms.

On the more social justice side of my work, I aided NNABI in their mission to empower women during perimenopause. The biggest example of this was with the NNABI “cheat sheet”, a form to be put on the company’s website detailing the best questions to ask a doctor about perimenopause, as well as tips about how to spark conversation around this life stage and advocate for oneself with healthcare professionals. This has been in effort to combat the misdiagnoses of perimenopausal women by our healthcare system, as well as the lack of training doctors are given about hormonal issues. Another social justice task I had was to create a survey for young women about their perceptions of menopause. One of the goals of NNABI is to inform younger women about their symptoms so that they are more prepared when the time comes. In line with that goal, I heavily pushed for NNABI’s larger impact to be advocating for menopause to be taught in sexual education in the United States.

This internship has helped me clarify my career interests. Having now experienced women’s health from a specifically entrepreneurial perspective, I now realize that I want to focus on more public health and social policy. Part of the beauty of health, women’s or otherwise, is how interdisciplinary it can be, with different piece to the same puzzle. Thank you again for helping me discover what I would like my piece to be.

Sincerely,
Deb Haimowitz
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to thank all of you for supporting such a noble fund so that students could intern and get paid for their time. Throughout the internship I got to engage and master skills that many labor and grassroots organizers practice every day. I got to learn about the importance of their work, their passion and how their work is rewarded. This newfound knowledge has been very rewarding, and I hope to apply this knowledge while pursuing policy change in my future endeavors.

This summer I worked with United for a Fair Economy. UFE is a nonprofit fighting for a resilient, sustainable, and equitable economy. Three aspects of the organization caught my attention, their expertise as grassroots organizers, the fight for higher wages (even if it’s not in MA,) and their work as supporters of on-the-ground organizations. I worked on a project meant to encourage popular education. This project was called the Conversation Deck which uses a deck of cards to facilitate a conversation on people’s experiences, struggles, and barriers with the economy. I hosted focus groups with staff, interns, and community leaders to gather feedback on the conversations we want people to have and engage with. While at UFE, I also worked with donor relations by responding to correspondences and other funding-related administrative tasks. Furthermore, I also help staff with databases and phone banking for events, webinars, and popular education workshops.

My overall experience at UFE was a build-up of my experience at Brandeis. The internship has allowed me to see how working for a nonprofit would look and feel. I have found what works best for me by being communicative and goal-setting. This has allowed me to organize myself better, manage my time and improve the quality of work. This quality of work will help me obtain the experience and knowledge required for employment in other nonprofits or fields of work in the future. During this internship, I learned two things about myself. One is that I would prefer to pursue work at a nonprofit as a part-time job, and the other is that community organizing involves a lot of new client introductions and unpaid work. Overall, I learned the importance of being able to organize and network in your community, most importantly, maintaining and growing it.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude for your support. Thanks to you, I will be using the funds to pay for my study abroad program and to keep me financially secure. I look forward to doing another internship during my study abroad program and in applying everything I learned this summer. Your support has made a difference in my life, and I will be forever thankful to the Brandeis community for this gift.

Erick Comas Hernandez
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to express my appreciation for your generous contribution to the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program. Because of this program, I was able to intern at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in their Social Work Department. It was an incredible opportunity, and I am so thankful for your support which made it possible. Without having to worry about taking another job in order to pay for rent and groceries, I was able to spend more time at my internship, including getting to shadow some of the social workers in different departments!

While I got to experience the day-to-day lives of different types of social workers at Beth Israel, my main role was with the department’s Center for Violence Prevention and Recovery, or CVPR. CVPR was established at Beth Israel in 1997 to respond to the needs of community members affected by violence, including sexual violence, domestic violence, homicide, and community violence. CVPR offers both crisis intervention—for example, meeting with victims of violence in the Emergency Department or advocacy and safety planning for people in situations of domestic violence—as well as ongoing, trauma-informed mental health support services for people who have experienced or are experiencing violence in their lives. The importance and impact of this program cannot be understated. People who are experiencing violence, especially those who also face social marginalization and oppression due to racism, classism, homophobia, and/or sexism, are often left without social and emotional support; even if they are treated for physical injuries at the hospital, they are too often discharged without the resources to deal with a psychological trauma. At Beth Israel, a patient who comes into the emergency department after a sexual assault, or one who discloses to their physician a situation of domestic abuse, would be referred to CVPR, where they would then have the option for additional support.

As an undergraduate intern, I assisted CVPR with several tasks, including updating their website and new employee handbook. My favorite project was researching and helping to write a chapter for a book by the Victim Rights Law Center, an organization which provides legal support for civil cases involving a sexual assault. The chapter, which this organization asked CVPR to collaborate on, was meant to help lawyers who work with victims of sexual assault approach their cases in a trauma-informed and mental-health-aware manner. As the court system is a source of revictimization for many survivors of sexual assault, in which survivors are forced to relive their trauma while often being disbelieved, this is hugely significant.

As part of my internship, I also had the opportunity to shadow social workers in several different areas of the hospital. I got to learn first-hand about social work in the Emergency Department, the NICU, and the labor and delivery floors. I am so thankful for this opportunity which allowed me to learn about what kind of job I may want to pursue in the future.

Sincerely,
Anna Hirsh
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Social Justice WOW fellowship. With this scholarship I was able to participate in an unpaid internship that let me explore new career paths and allowed me to learn more about myself and the community around me. I could not have had the amazing experience I had without your generous contributions.

I am going into my junior year at Brandeis and am currently double majoring in Health: Science, Society, and Policy (HSSP) and Business. This summer I was an intern at the Greenfield Court Service Center, working both in person and remotely. There are about seven Court Service Centers (CSCs) around Massachusetts that are a free resource to people who do not have lawyers. The CSCs can assist with filling out court forms within the trial court, provide resources and referrals, and guide litigants through their possible options.

Having to deal with COVID was still challenging when it came to looking for an in-person internship in my area at home. However, I was able to work ⅔ of the summer in person which I am very grateful and lucky that I could. Due to the fact that I had the ability to work remotely and in person I took on different tasks depending on where I was working that day. While working virtually I would sometimes be able to help fill out forms for litigants, check the email and voicemail, and create/update resources for litigants and future interns. While in person I would still do those same things but I was able to gather more information about the litigants and figure out exactly what they needed help with. There were also many outdated handouts from before the pandemic and one of my biggest projects was going through the stacks of in person papers and updating the ones that were there or creating new documents to give out.

I felt like I was learning something new every day and through this I learned what skills I have and what I am and am not interested in for a future career. For starters I learned that I enjoy helping others and working with people in my community. I do not think I want to go into law but I like the idea of finding ways to make the system easier to navigate. Overall, I was able to really learn about myself and the continuation of social justice work I would like to pursue.

I’m extremely grateful to have had this opportunity. None of this would be possible without your support and generosity. I am immensely grateful for your contribution to WOW and for my internship this summer with the Greenfield CSC.

Sincerely,
Gabby Katz
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I want to offer my sincere gratitude for the opportunity you have afforded me, alongside all my fellow participants in the World of Work Program. Your support has allowed me to pursue an opportunity I otherwise would not have been able to, and in doing so learn a great deal about what kind of career I may want to pursue in the future.

This summer, I worked as an intern for the Harrison Public Library in Westchester County, New York. In previous years, I have volunteered at my local library, but while I enjoyed shelving books and finding holds well enough, I wanted to experience working in a library in a grander capacity. Unfortunately, between COVID and the generally underfunded nature of libraries, an opportunity to work in a public library was not forthcoming. When I found out about WoW, I knew I had to take the chance.

I am currently a Junior at Brandeis and I major in History. When I came to Brandeis, however, I planned to major in English, which probably reveals more of my initial interest in the library system. One of my goals for this internship, however, was focused on gaining experience working with children. I have long considered being a teacher as a possible career path, but have had few opportunities to work with children in an educational environment. Alongside various activities you would expect from working at a library, such as making book displays and putting together recommendation lists, I primarily aided in coaching the local Battle of the Books team. Battle of the Books is a trivia competition run in Westchester County, in which children read five books over the course of the summer and then compete against each other in a series of matches. I myself was actually a member of one of the first Battle of the Books teams in Westchester, so I felt somewhat qualified in coaching the teams of the Harrison Library. This program, alongside many others that Harrison library runs, helps encourage the enjoyment of reading and provides a place for children who may prefer a good book to a baseball field experience what it is like to be on a team. I am very proud to say that the team I coached managed to get to the semi-finals, and had a great time doing it.

The Harrison Library is not a large organization, but I think because of that I was able to really help over the course of the summer. Public librarians play an important role running not just places that loan out books but community centers. It’s a labor of passion, but one that tends to go underappreciated and underfunded. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to work at the Harrison Library this summer.

Thank you so much,

Casey Lindemann
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to the Summer 2022 World of Work Social Justice Program. With your incredible kindness, I was able to pursue a career path that I am greatly interested in and gain important hands-on work experience. My name is Allissa Masse, and I am a senior pursuing a double major in Health: Science, Society, and Policy (HSSP) and Sociology, with a minor in Social Justice and Social Policy (SJSP).

This summer was undoubtedly memorable! I’ve always aspired to be an advocate, a source of empowerment, and an innovator – and interning at the Resilient Sisterhood Project (RSP), I’ve been flooded with sisterly mentorships and advice on how I can become that leader. The Resilient Sisterhood Project (RSP), founded in 2012, is a non-profit based in Boston raising awareness and empowering women and young adults of African descent affected by diseases of the reproductive system. Their mission is to educate and empower common but rarely discussed diseases of the reproductive system that disproportionately affect them. RSP approaches these diseases and associated issues through a cultural and social justice lens as they believe that poor knowledge of reproductive health is primarily related to health, racial, and socioeconomic disparities. These diseases include: uterine fibroids, endometriosis, infertility, polycystic ovarian syndrome as well as breast, cervical, ovarian, and uterine cancers. Their slogan, "creating windows into reproductive health," exemplifies their work with Black women and young adults to address deeply rooted racial discrimination health and medical inequities, oppressive cultural/gender norms, environmental/food injustice, and other social determinants of health that perpetuate the silence, secrecy, and inaction surrounding these diseases.

As a summer intern, I was responsible for raising awareness regarding reproductive health issues prevalent in young people of color. Therefore, I conducted a research project on preconception health awareness of the ages of 21 to 40. Preconception refers to the health of one during their reproductive years, when they are able to produce a child. It focuses on taking measures to protect the health of a baby they may have in the future. It also entails understanding how certain health issues and risk factors may affect a pregnancy and unborn child. Some foods and lifestyle choices – even certain natural hair and makeup products, for example, can harm your baby even before he or she is conceived. At the end of my internship, I was able to create a resource guide and podcast regarding preconception health for Black youth, which will both be published on the RSP website! I cannot thank you enough for your generosity in supporting this educational fund. I can honestly say that because of the support you provided, I experienced a life-changing summer working on my internship. The tremendous skills, experiences, and perspective I obtained as an intern have promoted valuable personal and professional growth - and have heavily affected my future direction and all goal of becoming a Health Administrator!

Sincerely,

Allissa Masse
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to start off by thanking you for your contribution to the Social Justice Wow Fellowship. Along with multiple students, your generosity allowed me to spend this summer working as an intern, despite the financial barriers that could prevent me from pursuing an unpaid opportunity. With this opportunity, I was able to learn more about my community, develop new skills and explore a career path I’m interested in.

I’m starting my sophomore year at Brandeis and I’m planning to double major in Biology and neuroscience. As an intern this summer, I worked remotely with the non-profit organization Science Clubs International (SCI). I was a member of a team of renowned scientists from around the world who are dedicated to sparking a social transformation through high-quality STEM education. SCI organizes clubs in different countries, especially in Latin America, to expose high school and college students to scientific educational experiences. I was a part of two of their clubs while in high school and this was an important experience in my decision to become a scientist.

In my job, I helped organize an online international event for +300 students that will happen over 4 weekends in three languages: Portuguese, Spanish and English. The event will happen in September with 10 scientific workshops for students to choose. My tasks included evaluating the student’s applications, checking the online platform for bugs, increasing the number of Brazilian Students in the event, and translating the website and materials to Portuguese. It was great to learn from inside all of the work that is put into an event like this.

It was an incredible experience that taught me something new every day. I discovered that more than working on research, I have a passion for education and making scientific knowledge accessible. For my professional career, I now know I want to merge my interest in science and education. I’m even considering an educational studies minor. Moreover, I developed a greater understanding of social justice work and learned more about myself and my goals.

I’m truly grateful to have received your support to pursue this opportunity. Without your generosity, I would not have had the chance to delve deep into this amazing social work. Thank you all for your contribution to the WOW initiative and for making my internship experience possible this summer.

Sincerely,

Ligia Azevedo
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I write with my deepest thanks to you for your support in the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work fellowship program at Brandeis University. Getting started in social justice work often occurs through internships, many of which are not accessible to often the most passionate and must qualified individuals because they are unpaid. Supporting programs like WOW and supplementing unpaid work done by students in social justice institutions challenges this structural barrier and works towards equity in accessibility to jobs which center social justice initiatives.

My name is Lucca Raabe, I’m a senior at Brandeis majoring in Pure Math and Sociology. This summer, I had the opportunity through the WOW fellowship to work in the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Office of Equity in their central district office. Education and Education policy is something I have been interested in pursuing since I attended public high school and witnessed first-hand the ways policy disproportionately disadvantages students of color in public schools. Education and schooling are critical social institutions which have vast capacity to impact the lives of every individual. Working in the #1 public school district in the United States showed me not only the potential this institution has to do good for students, families, and communities, but also how much work there still is to be done.

In my capacity at the office of Equity, I worked to document and advise schools in their investigations into instances of bias-based and sexual misconduct. Over the summer, I wrestled with difficult moral dilemmas, including how to best help individuals while working within an office which ultimately functions predominantly as an accountability tool for the district, and does not itself provide supports and remedial measures to individuals who have been harmed. More tangibly, I was able to bring skills in from both Math and in Sociology to the work I did. I conducted qualitative and quantitative data analysis for the department. I synthesized student responses to surveys on the district’s 24/7 Respect program. I then advocated for changes to the program based on this feedback and my own knowledge informed by my studies at Brandeis. I also taught myself how to use excel, a skill which will undoubtedly help me in my future studies and career.

Thanks to your support of my participation in this internship, the office has offered me a paid position to continue working for them throughout the fall 2022 semester. I will be able to continue doing this challenging and important work to better support marginalized individuals in the district. I look forward to using the skills I have learned and the experience I have gained to better inform my future work in education policy and policy at large. Your support of students like me makes it possible for us to participate in organizations that have the capacity to change our lives and the lives of many others. I will forever be grateful for your contribution and for my experience this summer.

Sincerely,
Lucca Raabe
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for your support and contributions to the Social Justice WOW Fellowship. Since being at Brandeis the WOW fellowship is one of the largest resources students look forward to being part of. I am grateful to have been part of this amazing network of people and to have received the support of WOW this summer. With your contribution, I was able to continue seeking opportunities within non-profit and social justice organizations.

I was able to apply and offer my skills to the work I deeply care about. I also gained so much knowledge from hands-on work experience and through the relationships I was able to build. From this experience, I can confidently say I gained much more technical skills. I am certain I can take these skills with me in whichever work field I find myself in.

I am a senior majoring in Sociology and Latin American, Caribbean, and LatinX studies. This summer I was a second-year summer intern for the Safe Passage Project. The Safe Passage Project centers its mission on providing free legal services for unaccompanied immigrant youth. They provide free lawyers and social workers to refugees and immigrant children in the NYC area. Since I was a second-year intern I worked with an attorney and a paralegal. Through my work with my paralegal supervisor, I completed more of an administrative role. My role included various daily tasks that were focused on supporting clients and keeping each case up to date. I translated and created birth certificate templates for Central American countries. I constructed guides for our clients to refer to when sending documents to our attorneys. Overall this administrative role included communicating with clients, interpreting, translating, and updating Salesforce and boxdrop. Additionally, I continued working with the attorney I worked with last summer. Through this position, I had the opportunity to gain greater insight into the application processes for the Green Card and Special Juvenile Immigrant Status application, and Deferred Action Work Permits. I found this experience to be very informative and necessary to the realities immigrants are facing in the United States. Safe Passage Project knows that much of the language and structure of these applications are inaccessible to their clients. With this, they take on the responsibility to complete each document. The lawyers, paralegals, and interns put into practice Safe Passage Projects focus by extending patience when explaining and translating to our clients and their families.

From this experience, I learned that a commitment to activism and social justice carries many roles. At Safe Passage the labor was continuously divided between lawyers, translators, social workers, and etc. The work could not have been done without one another’s deep passion for each of the young people that arrived at Safe Passage. I am eager to continue expanding my knowledge and gaining exposure on all the roles needed to create meaningful change for the lives we intend to serve with social justice work.

Best,

Catherine Romero
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your continued support and donation to the Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship. This summer, I was one of many to delve deeper into my personal and professional interests with your assistance. Because of this opportunity, I was able to pursue a virtual internship with The Law Office of Saikon Gbehan, LLC, an immigration and personal injury law firm based in Providence, Rhode Island. Learning to navigate a virtual workspace in a social justice-tailored work environment definitely assisted in both my professional personal development.

I am a sophomore at Brandeis University, considering majors in Anthropology and International and Global Studies, and minors in Business and Hispanic Studies. As a second-generation Mexican-American, I have entertained a passion for immigrant rights and immigration advocacy, even before beginning my undergraduate studies. My interests lie in increasing access to avenues of immigration relief for immigrants, as well as advocating for the creation and extension of opportunities to obtain legal status in the United States. Because of the World of Work Fellowship, I was able to continue my work to inform others of their legal options and give them the pertinent information in order for them to make an autonomous decision regarding their path forward. Throughout the course of my internship, I worked with many clients regarding obtaining legal status throughout a variety of relief avenues.

At the Law Office of Saikon Gbehan, LLC, the primary projects I worked on were I-130 packages, Petitions for Alien Relatives, and I-589 packages, Applications for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal. Having the opportunity to work on multiple of these types of projects with clients with a variety of backgrounds was simply humbling. Having the privilege of hearing each of their stories and knowing that you are giving them the tools to better advocate for themselves through a convoluted immigration system is an experience like none other.

Each project consisted of an array of different tasks, which included: conferencing with clients to gather details, filling out relevant application materials, drafting affidavits, researching technicalities regarding relief method, and speaking with representatives of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Having the opportunity to work with clients throughout the daunting process of obtaining legal status is an experience I will never forget. This internship confirmed that my interests lie in supporting people throughout the legal realm – an opportunity I could not have experienced without WOW.

Sincerely,
Anthony Ruiz
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

My name is Natalie Sadek, and I am a senior (graduating this semester!) majoring in Biology and Health, Science, Society, & Policy, and minoring in English. This summer, I was able to intern at REACH Beyond Domestic Violence, which is a non-profit offering shelter, advocacy, and other resources for survivors of domestic violence.

When I was looking for internships over the summer, I was really drawn to interning at a non-profit. Much of my coursework as a Health, Science, Society, and Policy major has involved looking at the theoretical contexts of disenfranchised and vulnerable populations. I wanted to see how non-profit can adequately address these issues in these populations, and because of my Social Justice World of Work fellowship, I was able to do so at REACH.

As an intern, I was able to work on a variety of projects for the organization, while also engaging in direct service with survivors. Most of my projects involved data collection in order to better expand the Organizations. I would collect data on how other similar organizations ran their volunteer programs and came up with a variety of action plans for the organization’s volunteer program. I also was able to attend a variety of health fairs in order to promote the organization’s resources to the community.

The largest part of my role, and by far the most impactful part, was the direct service component of my internship. As an intern, I was responsible for manning the online chat for those seeking immediate advice and help, answering the office phone, and greeting survivors as they walked into the office. Working on the online chat was extremely difficult, but also allowed me to use much of my theoretical coursework. While I recognized that this work would be difficult, I did not know how much it would impact me. I was consistently interacting with people in crisis, but it was difficult to remind myself that things might be okay in the end. However, for the first time in my life, people were coming to me with these large complex issues, and I was able to offer them resources and solutions, and they were so thankful. The art installation to the right is art made by survivors who used to work with us. While many people called the office in tears because they were overwhelmed, many people also cried when I told them REACH would be able to help. This internship taught me so many things, but most importantly it showed me that there are people who are working to make long term solutions. I appreciate your generosity that allowed me to pursue this opportunity.

Natalie Sadek
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for your generous support of the Brandeis Social Justice WOW fellowship. Your contribution has allowed me to explore the legal field in a way that was financially feasible for me and has helped break down barriers to entry within this career path. With your kind donation, I was able to accept and pursue this opportunity without financial restraints. Then began an entire summer full of critical discussions, hands-on learning, research, and field observations of the Massachusetts legal justice system.

My intention once I graduate is to attend law school after taking two years off to gain professional experience. I am particularly passionate about racial justice and juvenile justice as it pertains to law enforcement, legislation, and prosecution.

This summer, I was able to research and apply these critical questions to databases, cases, and court trials and hearings that I was able to have access to. Under the Racial Justice Initiatives Unit led by Antonia Soares Thompson, we have hosted a Diversity Equity and Inclusion event to discuss best practices regarding hate crimes and biases. Additionally, we conduct meetings between school districts and police departments to discuss incidents of bias, hate, or delinquency within schools. A common sentiment shared among all districts is that students have been struggling with mental health, truancy, and acting out ever since the start of the pandemic. There has also been a significant rise of racially motivated incidents of hate as well as hate incidents against LGBTQ+ students, which may be a reflection of the general political climate having increasingly politicized personal identities.

As a result of this, Antonia has conducted and has continued to develop a revolving workshop series intended to be taught at these public schools. These workshops aim to teach students a more critical and diverse understanding of American history and current events. This includes topics such as the American historical subjugation of racialized communities, what it means to be LGBTQ+ and how to be allies, and how to make impactful change and get involved in the face of performative social media activism. Luckily, I was able to help update this curriculum with content that I saw as relevant to current events, to my personal experiences as a queer Asian-American, and to current trends and discourse I have observed in online youth spaces.

As an undergraduate, I am grateful for the opportunity to be able to carry out court observations in district and juvenile court as a way for me to gain hands-on and intricate understanding of the court system. This is not something everyone can say they have done, especially before they have gone to law school. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity to grow, develop my professional skills, and to kickstart my legal career. This is just the beginning!

Sincerely,
Amy Schroder
To Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to thank you for your generous contribution, which has allowed me to pursue work during the summer which has not just been meaningful to me on a personal level, but work which I think has an impact that will shape my life. I worked at Consensus Group this summer, which is a conflict resolution, negotiation and peacekeeping consulting group based in New York City. A lot of my work involved working alongside another person at Consensus in writing articles teaching and discussing conflict resolution and peacekeeping, creating relatable lessons that can also be applied practically to people's lives.

I went into this internship with a lot of questions. I had heard about this field partially because it had been recommended to me by others – it's a bit of a niche, and I certainly never considered it on my own. So, I wasn't sure what I really would be in for, and whether it would be work I would find interesting and, most importantly to me, meaningful. Through my work with Consensus, I am now extremely excited about this field, and confident in my pursuit of it. Besides for my work, I was also lucky enough to have the person I worked for provide me with extensive one on one classes on negotiation. While this was meant to partially be to facilitate my work, it also taught me so much about Conflict Resolution. I now feel I have a foundation to build off both professionally and academically.

I am now just starting out a class in Brandeis on negotiation, which I would not have thought to pursue so much prior to this internship. I am very thankful for having this opportunity.

Thank you,

Micah Seigel
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your support to the Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Program. Your generosity has enabled me and so many other students to pursue an area of professional interest.

I am a senior at Brandeis majoring in Education Studies and Sociology. Post-graduation I plan to pursue a master's degree in either education policy, special education, or social work. Due to the Social Justice WOW Program, I spent the summer working at Riverside Community Care, a community based non-profit organization which provides individualized behavioral health and social services in a community-based setting. This organization holds respect for individual consumers and believes accessible quality care should be available to all. The non-profit offers a wide range of care, including behavioral health services and services for people with developmental disabilities.

Specifically, I worked as an Engagement Specialist Intern with the Behavioral Health Community Partners (BH CP) team, a program which provides care management and coordination for eligible adults who are enrolled in a MassHealth ACO (Accountable Care Organizations) or MCO (Managed Care Organization) and have significant behavioral health needs. Some of the consumers need the support of BH CP to know what care options are available to them and how to go about accessing these. A care coordinator is assigned to the member and meets the consumer where they are. The care coordinator works with the enrollee to build confidence and independence in navigating the healthcare system and social services. Together, they create a care plan which helps connect enrollees to resources that are in their community and provides support for people who may face challenges on multiple fronts, (health, food, medication, etc.).

One of the main projects I worked on over the summer involved creating a moving guide that is catered to our member’s needs. Moving alone is a huge undertaking for anyone. For people without the financial means or friends and family support, moving can be made even more difficult. The document doesn’t solve everything, but it does try to make the moving process a little easier. Not only does the moving guide help members, but it also is in support of care coordinators on the BH CP team. Unfortunately, finding resources for moving expenses is not as easy as one might think. By having the information in one place, care coordinators can more easily access what they need and in turn, support enrollees.

I am incredibly grateful for your support to the Social Justice WOW program. After my internship, I’m proud to say I’ve grown more confident in my advocacy skills and ability to try new things. I feel I have grown in both personal and professional ways and I am excited to continue to work in positions which are rooted in social justice.

Ruby Siegel
To the Supporters of The Legacy Fund,

I want to express immense gratitude for your commitment to supporting the Brandeis World of Work Fellowship. My name is Jessica Umanoff and I am a senior at Brandeis double majoring in sociology and theater arts. Being a recipient of the WOW grant was a goal of mine that I am so grateful to have achieved, as it allowed me to pursue meaningful human rights work that I did not think I would be able to fulfill without financial compensation. Thank you for noticing and supporting my dedication, passion, and drive for social justice work.

I feel honored to have been the first intern in history to work with the Boston chapter of the Aids Coalition to Unleash Power (Act-Up), an international organization dedicated to advocating for HIV/AIDS prevention, violence prevention, drug and alcohol overdose prevention, and supporting Boston’s LGBTQIA+ community. After taking a sociology course that focused on the HIV/AIDS epidemic, I discovered a personal interest in public health and wanted to further my experience as a young activist and harm reduction worker. Due to the communal nature of the chapter, I gained meaningful experience through responsibility: facilitating and taking notes during weekly meetings, prepping for pride events in downtown Boston that Act-Up was invited to participate in, and organizing virtual panels and workshops to discuss the greater need for harm reduction services in the city of Boston were just a handful of tasks that I completed throughout the summer. These efforts also gave me insight into the professional realm of nonprofit work and grassroots organizing: it’s not easy! It is time consuming, requires excellent communication amongst your fellow members, and calls on everyone to bring their creativity, bravery, and passion to the table.

Throughout my time with Act-Up, I learned what it means to be an engaged community member. I was able to apply my knowledge of the social world that I have cultivated in the classroom setting to the real world, which helped me theorize how a small grassroots chapter like us can work towards dismantling the many barriers we face when fighting for social justice.

With gratitude,
Jess Umanoff
Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I want to thank both you and Brandeis for giving me the opportunity to spend my Summer doing something I love and passionately believe in. Social justice is something I care deeply about because working towards social justice is one of the most direct ways to improve the world we live in. Without the World of Work Fellowship from Brandeis I would not have been able to improve our world this Summer. This internship has given me a peak at what working post-college will be like and in this way it has also given me the experience required for a post college life. It is because of this experience that I cannot thank Brandeis and the supporters of the Legacy Fund enough.

My name is Kass (although that is only a recent name change. I used to go by Dee) Whyte and I am an upcoming Senior at Brandeis with a major in linguistics although I am hoping to go into computational linguistics after I graduate from undergrad. I worked at BAGLY Inc. for my internship this Summer. BAGLY is an acronym which stands for The Boston Alliance of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Youth. It helps to run LGBTQ+ events, fights for LGBTQ+ rights, and provides a space as well as resources for the LGBTQ+ community. They also run programs such as one for giving homeless transgender youth housing. I worked in the development team for BAGLY which meant I worked on mostly back end stuff such as sending emails to donors or going through donor data to sort out bad emails. One project which I worked on was compiling a list of school contacts for BAGLY to make it easier to reach out to schools for planning events and collaborations. In this task I even used some of my programming skills to take data from the internet and clean it up for compiling.

Working at BAGLY has been amazing not only because it has provided me with some job experience, but also because as a trans person myself it was very satisfying to help the LGBTQ+ community as well as work in an environment which was extremely accepting of my identity. It made it easier to get to know my coworkers and I felt at ease with them rather than having to hide my identity. I spent my Summer in the most satisfying and fulfilling way possible.

Sincerely,
Kass Whyte
The Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice supports Brandeis students, enhances campus life and promotes the issues of social justice that the former U.S. Supreme Court justice championed throughout his life.

Since its establishment in 2006, the Legacy Fund has sponsored a series of initiatives designed to help students, enrich the university community, and address social justice concerns on and off campus.

The Legacy Fund was founded by Jules Bernstein ’57, and is funded in part by Mr. Bernstein and his wife, Linda Lipsett, and the Class of 1969 Fund for Social Justice, an endowment established by the Class of 1969 during their 50th Reunion.

Special gratitude to the Legacy Fund Advisory Committee:

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