

**LOUIS D. BRANDEIS
LEGACY FUND FOR
SOCIAL JUSTICE**



2020 FELLOW APPRECIATION BOOK

LOUIS D. BRANDEIS LEGACY FUND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

WORLD OF WORK FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

2020 marks the thirteenth year that the Legacy Fund has supported undergraduates who have chosen to pursue unpaid summer internships in the fields of social justice. Since its inception, nearly 350 students have been able to take on experiences that simultaneously advanced their career interests and helped reduce inequalities around the globe.

Access to unpaid internships continues to be a struggle for many college students. 2020 brought that reality into sharp focus. COVID-19 descended on the world during peak internship search season. Widespread uncertainty forced many employers to slash their internship programs or scramble to develop alternatives to in-person experiences. This left many students with limited options and even more limited financial assistance. Nevertheless, 21 World of Work (WOW) fellows persevered, collaborating and negotiating with their organizations to secure virtual internships that retained the substance, meaning, and impact of their in-person equivalents.

The Hiatt Career Center is grateful to the Legacy Fund and all its donors for making summer 2020 a success despite all odds. When other programs cancelled or crumbled, the Legacy Fund forged on, further affirming its mission and commitment to inspiring the next generation of social justice activists and leaders.

In the following pages, you will hear from these talented and dedicated students as they share their appreciation for the transformative experiences made possible by the generosity of the Louis D. Brandeis Legacy Fund for Social Justice.

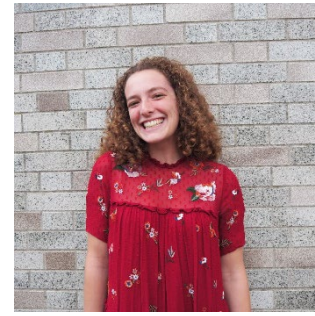
2020 Legacy Fund Fellows



Anna Badalament '20
Middlesex District
Attorney's Office



Lydia Begag '22
Jane Doe Inc.



Simone Decker '22
Dinah



Maria Estevez '21
Boston Medical Center
Department of Psychiatry



Violet Fearon '21
Avodah



Joshua Feld '22
Answer The Call - NYC



Sarah Karan '21
Rogers Behavioral Health



Brianna Lackwood '21
My Speech Matters



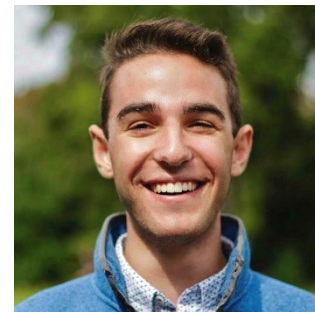
Jermeelah Martin '23
United for a Fair Economy



Zuham Moreno '22
RAICES



Agnes Nkansah '21
Massachusetts Commission on
the Status of Women



Aaron Pins '21
Sierra Club,
Massachusetts Chapter



Wenjing Qin '21
The Right to Immigration
Institute



Noa Reiter '22
The Legal Aid Society



Katherine Ross '21
Love 4 Bukwo



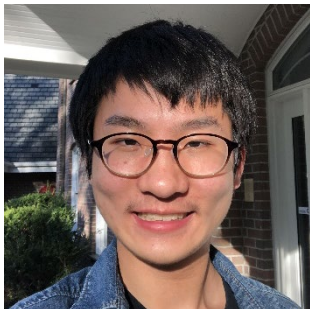
Miranda Sullivan '22
IfNotNow



Parker Thompson '23
Charleston Digital Corridor



Marissa Torelli '22
Boston Mayor's Office,
Office of Public Safety



Zhiyu Wang '23
BRAVE for Veterans, Inc.



Jiachen Zhu '21
Ashoka



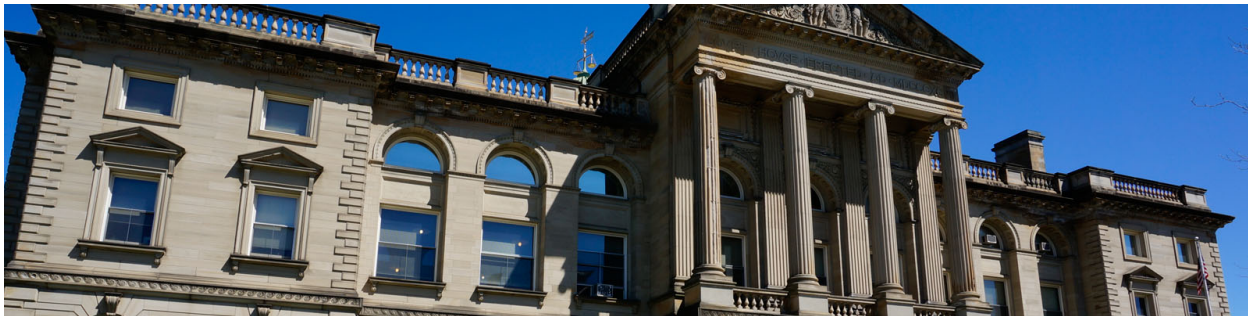
Talia Zitner '23
National Consumers League



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I cannot thank you enough for your generous contributions to the WOW Social Justice Fellowship Program. Without your support, the work I and many of the other fellows did this summer would not have been possible.

I am a senior at Brandeis University majoring in American Studies and History and minoring in Legal Studies. Through my work this summer at the **Middlesex District Attorney's Office (MDAO)**, I solidified my post-graduate plans. I currently intend to take a gap year before attending law school. Eventually I hope to become an Assistant District Attorney (ADA). I found such a positive and supportive work environment in the Office and gained very valuable insight from the people I worked with. I plan to continue my work with the Office into this fall, an opportunity I would not have without your support this summer.



This summer I worked in a wide variety of departments within the Office, including the county's Juvenile Diversion Program and Community Partnerships Division, the Cold Case Unit, and on projects for both District and Superior Courts. I gained exposure to many different sides of criminal law, including those born out of criminal justice reform initiatives. I was also able to be a part of numerous trainings and discussions on systemic racism, particularly as it applies to the criminal justice system. District Attorney Marian Ryan had three discussion sessions with the interns alone on the subject. It is encouraging that the Office is prioritizing making the criminal justice system equitable and just for everyone involved. I was also able to gain extensive experience with remote work, an essential valuable skill in the job market I will be graduating into this December.

Thanks to your support, I and the other WOW fellows were able to make the most out of this highly unusual summer. Thank you so much for your continued generosity; your commitment to supporting Brandeis students in the social justice work they are passionate about continues the legacy upon which the university was founded and for whom it was named.

Best,
Anna Badalament



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to thank you for your generous donation to the Summer 2020 World of Work Social Justice scholarship. This scholarship has granted me the opportunity to fully pursue an amazing internship. This summer was definitely one for the books - from adjusting to a new world of virtual workspaces and exploring future careers in social justice causes, I grew substantially both personally and professionally.

I am a junior at Brandeis, majoring in Politics and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and minoring in Legal Studies. Being an Arab-Muslim woman born to immigrant parents, my identity has heavily inspired the career path in legal service and social justice work I strive to take. My passion rests in achieving justice on all fronts, especially for marginalized communities like domestic violence/sexual assault survivors, low-income residents and immigrants. Because of your contribution, I was able to intern at **Jane Doe Inc.**-- a non-profit organization in Boston, MA that strives to end gender-based violence. Guided by the voices of survivors, JDI has 3 focuses: advocacy, collaboration, and innovation. It is a public advocacy group that promotes collaboration between member organizations to create innovative solutions and improve the lives of survivors.

At Jane Doe Inc I worked on numerous projects within a variety of departments, such as Communications and Outreach, and Policy/Advocacy. One was researching and crafting a set of talking points on the sexual abuse to prison pipeline, what this means for women of color, and the necessity to reallocate Massachusetts state funding towards decarceration purposes. The other project was working on developing a virtual panel event and moderating a discussion on the "multiple truths" surrounding the 2020 presidential election and what it means for sexual assault survivors. This panel hosted over 100 attendees virtually and I had the amazing opportunity to meet and discuss on this platform with four incredible speakers!

Multiple Truths:
Survivorship in the 2020 Elections

August 6th 5pm - 6pm REGISTER bit.ly/MultipleTruths

On the Panel:

- Monika Johnson*
Hoatter
NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Sasha Goodfriend*
Mass NOW
- Chadity Bowick*
Transgender Emergency Fund
- Luz Villar*
Office of the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District Office

Student Moderator:

- Lydia Begay*
JDI Summer Intern
Brandeis University World of Work of Fellow

jdi Jane Doe Inc. The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

These opportunities would not have been possible without your generosity and commitment to social justice work. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support, one that has enabled me to extend my contribution to the work at Jane Doe Inc beyond myself. Thank you again for uplifting me with the opportunity to work at JDI through the WOW Social Justice Scholarship. I hope to connect with you again in the future.

Sincerely,
Lydia Begay



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

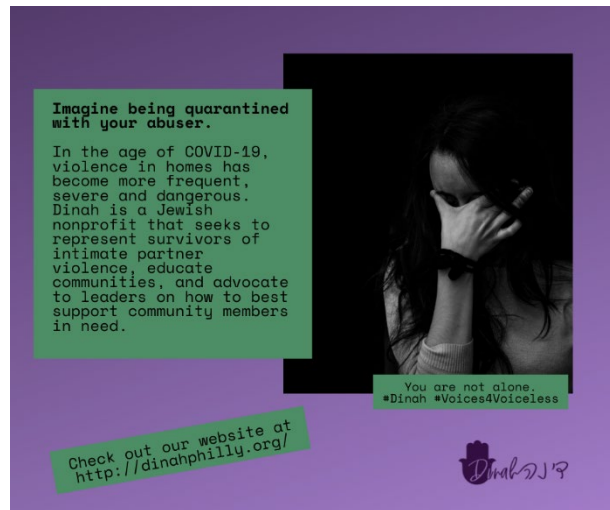
I am writing to sincerely thank you for your contribution to the Brandeis Social Justice WOW Program. Because of your generosity, myself and numerous other Brandeis students had the opportunity to engage in meaningful social justice work this summer. Brandeis University's commitment to social justice was one of the main reasons I decided to attend the school, and through the Legacy Fund it is evident that, even after nearly a century, Brandeis University is still committed to the values upon which it was founded.

As a junior, I am studying Health: Science, Society, and Policy with minors in Legal Studies and Social Justice/Social Policy. I hope to one day become a lawyer and continue to combat injustice in our world perhaps by being a public defender or by working for other legal nonprofits. Because of your generous contribution, I was able to do so at **Dinah**, a legal nonprofit that works to combat intimate partner violence in the Jewish community. They provide legal aid along with other resources to victims of abuse and advocate to leaders inside and outside of synagogues to best support community members in need.

Most of my responsibilities involved working to enhance Dinah's social media platform but I also worked alongside the organization to create programming for Jewish camps and schools about intimate partner violence within the Jewish community and healthy relationship practices teenagers can take with them into their adult lives. Dinah focuses on representation, education, and advocacy, and this summer I was able to learn about all three. This past year, COVID-19 has exposed deep, systemic, problems within our society and intimate partner violence is certainly one of them. Movement restrictions intended to stop the spread of COVID-19 makes violence in homes more frequent, more severe and more easily concealed.

None of this important work would have been possible without your generosity-- so thank you. Your advocacy is an inspiration and has helped protect victims of abuse particularly in insular religious communities who often have nowhere else to go. Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to work for Dinah this summer.

Sincerely,
Simone Decker



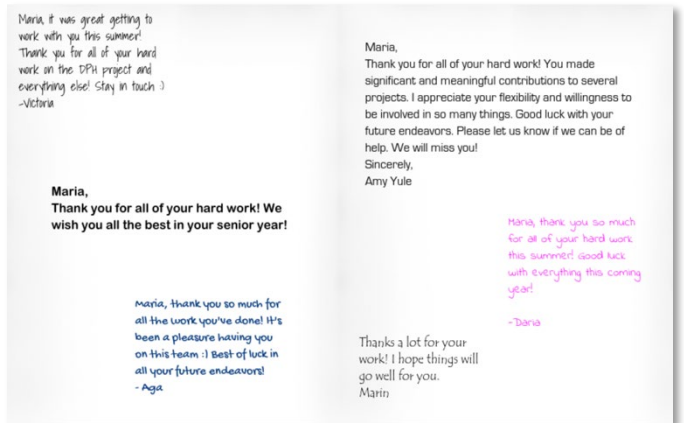


Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I want to thank you for making it possible for me to intern with the **Department of Psychiatry at Boston Medical Center**. I learned a lot from the Department but also from the wonderful people I was fortunate to work with. It was very rewarding to work in a place that is mission-driven, truly wants to change society, but also provides exceptional care to everyone.

I am senior double majoring in Health: Science, Society & Policy and Psychology with a minor in Italian Studies. And without your support I wouldn't have gotten the opportunity to explore future potential careers in public health and social work.

Working as a summer research assistant for Dr. Amy Yule gave me the opportunity to contribute to current research in substance use disorders. I got to work on various projects that included assisting with implementing screening for substance use disorders in behavioral health by identifying which screening tools and questionnaires have been translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole and assisting with Spanish translation. The screening tools are also part of the National Institute of Health HEAL initiative which stands for Helping to End Addiction Long term. I also worked on a systematic literature search focused on screening for substance use in behavioral health clinics and assisted with a systematic review of substance use disorder treatment outcomes among adolescent girls. By translating the screening tools, which is part of the systematic process of validating the tools in Spanish, other researchers will be able to use them once we are finished with our ongoing HEAL project. Also, non-English speakers will be able to be diagnosed and treated if needed. It is also the main reason why we're working to decrease health disparities between non-English speakers and English speakers. We are also using a systematic review that we are currently working on to get a better sense of what is out there to inform future research which we hope will eventually lead to the discovery of better gender specific treatments. I leave this invaluable internship feeling confident that I will be able to apply the skills I learned in the classroom but also in my future career.



Thank you so much for your support and generosity in helping me and my peers pursue opportunities like these. After this internship I am more determined to pursue a career as a Public Health Social Worker.

Sincerely,
Maria Estevez



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for your support of the Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Program. This summer, I was one of many students who was able to explore an area of professional interest as a result of your generosity.

I am a rising senior at Brandeis, double majoring in History and Politics. This summer I was a Development Intern at **Avodah**, an antipoverty nonprofit that seeks to cultivate young Jewish leaders through its CORPs and Fellowship programs. When I started, I knew I was interested in the nonprofit world, but I had no experience with how nonprofits actually function, and I certainly didn't know the first thing about development work. The team I worked with at Avodah was incredibly kind and enthusiastic; not only did I gain experience specifically in development, but I was able to be a part of company-wide meetings and gain insight into how all the different departments of a nonprofit interact.

Most of my time as an intern was spent researching prospective major donors to see if they were a good fit for Avodah and updating the Kehilot for Justice database to improve Avodah's ties with local synagogues. A smaller project of mine was collecting survey results from former CORPs and Fellowship members, and writing a newsletter to send out to donors at the end of the summer to keep them updated on Avodah's work in the wake of the coronavirus and increasing awareness of racial injustice. I gained a number of practical skills this summer. In particular, I learned how to use Salesforce, a Customer Relationship Management software that is used by a huge number of nonprofits, and will likely come in handy for years to come.



Before my internship, I knew I wanted to make a difference in the world after graduation, but I wasn't quite sure how to go about it. After spending 10 weeks learning about the Avodah CORPs program, which is geared towards recent college grads, I gained a strong interest in applying to Avodah and other similar social

justice programs later this year. My work at Avodah also opened my eyes to the sheer variety of social justice work, from combating food insecurity and domestic violence to helping Hasidic Jews who want to enter secular life. Perhaps the biggest impact Avodah made on me was simply exposing me to the nearly infinite ways to go about making a positive difference in the world. None of this would be possible without your support. On behalf of everyone at Brandeis who benefits from your contributions, thank you.



Sincerely,
Violet Fearon



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing today to sincerely thank you for your contribution to the Brandeis Social Justice WOW program. This program allows fellow Brandeis scholars, such as myself, to participate in meaningful internships that will definitely have a long-lasting impact. The WOW Fellowship allowed me to intern with **Answer the Call**, which is an organization that provides financial assistance and a network of support for the families of New York

City police officers, firefighters, Port Authority police, and EMS personnel who have been killed in the line of duty. Without WOW, I would not be able to have such an interesting remote experience. I was exposed to a unique virtual workspace, advocating and working on behalf of families of fallen first responders. Some of the relationships I built with colleagues and families will endure for years to come.

Currently, I am a Junior at Brandeis majoring in Politics and Sociology with a third major in Education pending. I hope to one day become a Special Education teacher within the city of New York. Prior to entering Brandeis, I was highly interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. Many people have the notion that a career in law enforcement means becoming a police officer. However, numerous careers exist inside the criminal justice system, such as battling cybercrime or joining the Attorney General's Office. Back in high school, I was chatting with a friend who mentioned an amazing organization that looks out for her family ever since her father passed away in 2017 in the line of duty. From that moment, I became interested in the organization. In the summer of 2019, I reached out to the organization and inquired about internships for the following year.



As a Developmental Intern with Answer the Call, I was tasked with various assignments. Answer the Call hosts an annual in person gala with 600+ attendees, but due to COVID-19 this was put on pause. I was tasked to brainstorm ideas and create presentations as to how this could become virtualized.

Another project I worked on was obtaining donations and virtualizing their annual golf outing which was a huge success! Overall, I would like to thank the supporters of the Legacy Fund for providing me a wonderful opportunity for the unprecedented summer of 2020.

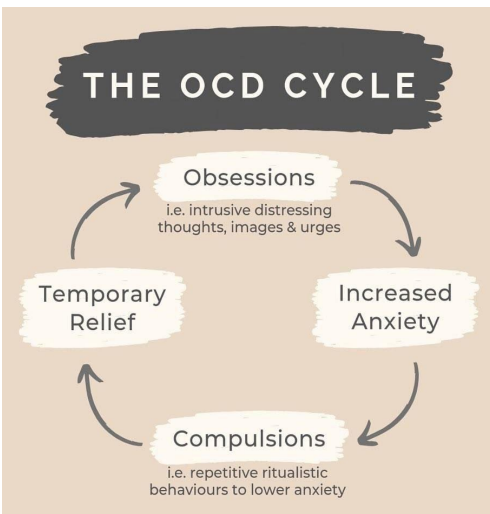
Be well and stay safe,
Joshua R. Feld



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Social Justice WOW fellowship. Your generosity has enabled a multitude of students, including myself, to work as summer interns, without lack of pay hindering our abilities to pursue unpaid positions. This fellowship has been especially helpful this summer, given that the COVID-19 pandemic has severely harmed the economy as well as the job market. The need for social justice work has been continually growing, and I am happy to contribute to this work and to be part of a university that actively supports its students in doing such work.

I am a senior at Brandeis, double majoring in Psychology and Sociology. After I graduate, I plan to work as a research assistant in a psychology lab and pursue either a Psy.D. or a Ph.D. in clinical psychology. The Social Justice WOW program allowed me to gain relevant work experience by serving as a (remote) psychology research intern at **Rogers Behavioral Health** in Philadelphia. Rogers is a national “private, not-for-profit provider of behavioral health services and is nationally recognized for its specialized psychiatry” services. Rogers’ mission is to provide evidence-based treatment to children and adults who are suffering from mood disorders, eating disorders, posttraumatic stress disorder, and obsessive-compulsive and anxiety disorders in order to help them achieve well-being. Providing effective treatments involves adhering to research, which is where I come in as a research assistant.

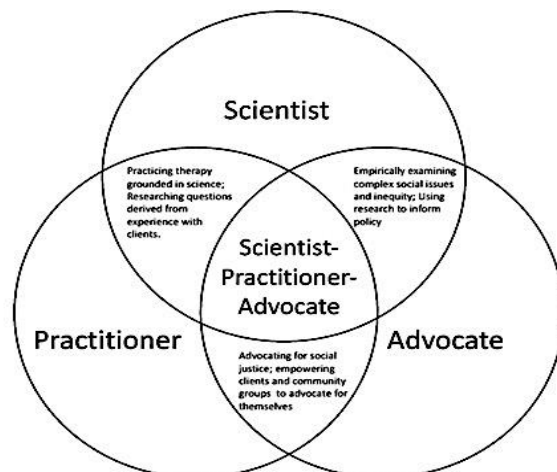


I worked directly under Dr. Martin Franklin - the Clinical Director of the Philadelphia branch of Rogers. We primarily worked on writing about flexibility within fidelity in treating Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) in adults. This chapter will serve as a chapter in Dr. Philip Kendall’s upcoming book. Disseminating evidence explicating the efficacy of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) helps counter the common misconception that medication is the only treatment for mental health issues. Spreading the truth about disorders also helps decrease the negative stigma. As a researcher and future therapist, not only do I want to work to help individuals who are struggling, but I also want to actively serve

as an advocate for equality and reducing stigmas.

Thank you, again, for supporting me in my endeavor to do social justice work in the field of psychology. I am immensely grateful for your contribution to WOW and for my internship at Rogers.

Sincerely,
Sarah Turk Karan





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you for supporting the Brandeis Social Justice WOW. Your support has allowed me to realign my social justice work with my personal endeavors and career goals. All of your kind contributions have allowed for me and many other students to be active participants in social justice work in their communities and otherwise. This is especially important during these times where many of us have been forced to come to terms with where we stand in sociopolitical unrest in the midst of a pandemic. In spite of the harsh realities that have weaved their way into many of our lives these past months, the social justice work that I have participated in has added more clarity than obstruction.

I am a senior double majoring in Linguistics and African & African American Studies. I am interested in studying Speech Pathology in grad school with hopes of going on to work in out-patient Speech Therapy rehabilitation practices. Before I reach this goal, I find it important to have vast experiences in the field. Because I am moved by projects that guide people to an enriching place through their own rediscovery of wellness, I wanted to get this intimate experience at a private practice. **My Speech Matters** works with both children and adults who have speech impediments or otherwise need services that relate to feeling comfortable and grounded in their communication.

This summer, My Speech Matters offered many of their sessions through teletherapy. Though this can pose challenges, the therapists I shadowed approached their work with unwavering ethics, determination, and rigor. It was meaningful to be around that type of energy. Many of the children who receive therapy sessions progress socially and behaviorally, and this translates into their school and home settings. When we consider the strained relationship that NYC public school students who need this support have with in-school therapy sessions, this is extremely important. My supervisor gave me insight into IEPs (Individualized Education Program) that are often based on insufficient information gathered from the IEP assessment. This is due to the overwhelming public student population that far exceeds the number of speech therapists to do the assessments. Some students may not even get to receive this support due to this supply/demand imbalance. In addition, the sessions offered in school are often group sessions that lack parental involvement. While this may be both efficient for the therapist and beneficial to the student's social growth, it cuts out an individualized hands-on approach. I was able to see how that attention and care looks with the individualized therapy sessions at My Speech Matters. All that I worked on and saw enriched my experience and my summer.



This experience would not have been possible without your help. I thank you again for your support of the Legacy Fund. Many before and after me will continue to benefit from it.

Thank you,
Brianna Lackwood



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to offer my sincerest thank you for supporting my internship experience with **United for a Fair Economy**. Your support for the Brandeis social justice WOW has allowed me to fully grasp my passion for social justice and create an action plan to continuously be involved in social justice initiatives. I was able to map out my educational journey and create concrete career goals in social justice. I sincerely appreciate your support.

I am a sophomore at Brandeis University, intending to create an interdisciplinary major in Public Policy and minors in Computer Science and International and Global Studies. I hope to one day become a policy analyst, focusing on education equity and, more broadly, equitable policies for low income Americans.

My time at United for a Fair Economy could not have been more meaningful. United for a Fair Economy is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that supports social movements working towards a resilient, sustainable, and equitable economy. Despite the remote setting, I was able to experience nonprofit culture and engage meaningfully with the team. I worked on projects and gained valuable skills. I conducted research on education policy to write an education equity blog. I learned the value of organization and donor relations by conducting thank you calls to donors. I conducted foundation research to understand how nonprofits get most of their funding. I also got the opportunity to learn the development side with managing database entries. Above all, I learned from the team how to organize, connect to community members, and use popular education for facilitating. I also learned how transform my passion for social justice into a plan for my career and academics.

Imagine this scene: books are being thrown up in the air, classrooms are humid because of the broken air conditioning, students are yelling at the top of their lungs, and teachers are too frustrated to teach. This was the scene of my eighth grade class in 2014 because the school down the street from mine closed. My school days had not always been this way. Just a few years prior, class sizes were small, there were enough books for everyone, students enjoyed the fruits of learning, while teachers enjoyed teaching. My education was the highest of prestige, and I had a fair opportunity for a successful future. As a low income, Black student in Chicago, I had no clue how important these factors were in the quality of education I could receive and the hurdles that I would have to overcome. In 2014, the city of Chicago authorized the closing of 34 public elementary schools, citing a budget deficit of \$1 billion as the reason. Of the schools that closed, the majority were in low-income areas and 94% of the schools had over 90% Black student population. Nearly 30,000, predominantly Black and low-income students were displaced to schools far away from their homes.

Education inequality refers to the disproportionate distribution of academic resources, such as school funding, qualified teachers and staff and adequate school supplies to socially excluded communities. Although this was my reality in Chicago, education inequality affects students all across the United States. For example, on average in 2012, the United States spent \$334 more on every white student than on every non-white student. This disproportionate per pupil funding is a reflection of decades of systemic inequalities and historical discrimination practices based on race, income and other social factors, one of many unfair funding practices in public education is the use of property tax. Most schools in the United States receive more than half of their public school funding through local property taxes. Property taxes are taxes paid to the local government by individuals, corporations or any legal entity based on the value of owned property and land. Property taxes exclude low-income students from quality education because by default these students will receive for less because most of the homes in their neighborhood are rented and have lower property value.

Systemic issues in funding drives education inequality and has detrimental effects primarily on low-income Black and Brown students. These students receive lower quality of education which is reflected through less qualified teachers, not enough books, technologies and special support like counselors and disability services. The lack of access to fair, quality education creates the broader income and wealth gaps in the U.S. Black and brown students face more hurdles to going to college and will be three times more likely to experience poverty as a American with only a highschool degree than an American with a college degree. Income inequality worsens the opportunity for building wealth for Black and brown families because home and asset ownership will be more difficult to attain.

Reimagining how public education can function for equality and equity relies on us and demanding that our government reinvest funding in low-income school districts. More progressive funding practices will lead to more opportunities for low-income students and students of color. Here are some of my suggestions for creating an equitable public education system and successful educational justice movement:

1. Concretely, the first solution would be to reduce class distinctions among students by doing away with the property tax as a primary funding source. This is a significant driver for education inequality because low-income students, by default, will receive less. Instead, the state government should create more significant initiatives and budgets for equitable funding.
2. Stop the expansion of charter and private schools as it is not affordable for all students and creates segregation.
3. Deprioritize test-based funding because it discriminates against disadvantaged students.
4. Support teachers financially, as in offering higher salaries and benefits for teachers to improve retention.
5. Invest more resources for support in low-income, underfunded schools such as, increased special education specialists and counselors.
6. Dismantle the school to prison pipeline for students by adopting more restorative justice efforts and fewer funds for cops in schools. This will create more funds for education justice initiatives and work to end the over-policing of minority students.

7. More broadly, supporting efforts to dismantle the influence of capitalism in our social sector and supporting an economy that taxes the wealthy at a higher rate will allow for adequate support and funding of public sectors like public education and support for low-income families.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity to me and my peers to pursue opportunities like these. I am determined to keep working in nonprofits and social justice initiatives.

Sincerely,
Jermeelah Martin



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

First off, I want to thank you for your generous contribution to the Brandeis Social Justice WOW scholarship. Because of programs and scholarships like these, students are able to pursue meaningful internships that create long-lasting effects and skills while being financially stable— without having to balance another job to make up the costs. Having my internship as my primary responsibility enabled me to give it my best effort despite difficult circumstances. Especially at a time when financial security was more important than ever, the WOW scholarship was able to take one burden off my shoulders.

I am a junior at Brandeis University majoring in Sociology and HSSP with a minor in Social Justice and Social Policy. After finishing my undergraduate studies in Fall 2021, I plan on attending grad school and double majoring in social work and Latin American studies to combine the socioeconomic challenges and immigration challenges in America and also Latin America. As a LatinX woman born to immigrant parents who grew up in poverty, it inspired me to work in the immigration and nonprofit field to better represent immigrants that do not have access to resources. Because of this career path, I applied to **RAICES** (Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services) as a community outreach intern. RAICES provides services to immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers all over Texas. Thanks to RAICES and WOW, I am able to carry on these skills and implement them to future classes, careers, or even personal decisions.



Thank you again for your contribution and investment in students who will be our future leaders and advocates for those who don't have a voice in being able to restoring justice.

Sincerely,
Zuham Moreno



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I write to offer my sincerest thank you for making my experience at the **Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women** possible. Seeing that this year was particularly challenging socially and economically for many institutions, businesses and individuals alike, your investment in myself and my peers meant more than ever.

As a part of the class of 2021, this year I will be a senior at Brandeis majoring in Health Science Society and Policy and minoring in International and Global Studies and African and African American Studies. Undoubtedly, this combination of courses allowed me to think critically about the moment I was engaging in the work of the Commission.

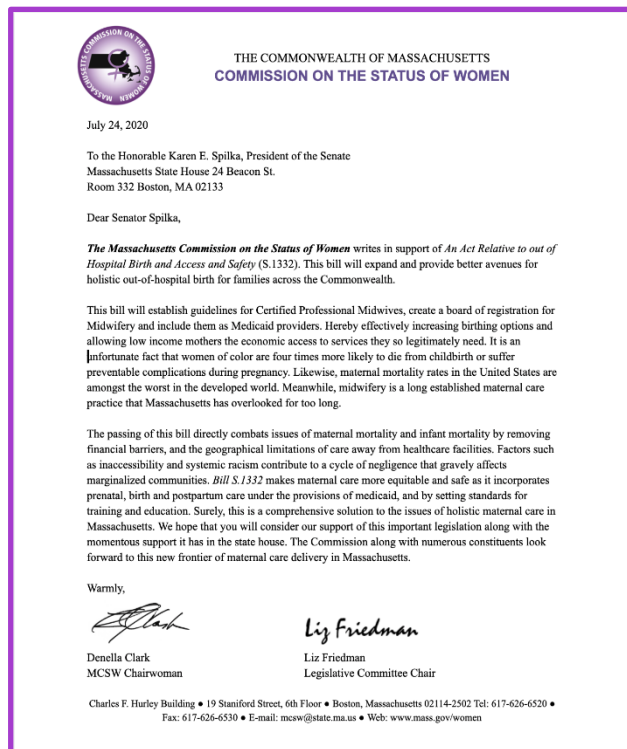
I feel that my timing at the MCSW couldn't have been better as I had the opportunity to view public health from the lens of policy as COVID-19 began to change the world. It underscored the stark inequities in healthcare, distributions of wealth, and opportunity that so many communities are subjected to as a result of systemic racism. As the MSCW is charged to be an active voice for women and girls across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I believe I fulfilled this mandate.

During my time there a few of my tasks included maintaining the Commission's Bill database for the 2019-2020 legislative session by tracking the status of endorsed bills. I also created informational memo sheets for the chair of the commission's advocacy work. Furthermore, I attended listening sessions wherein women across several municipalities shared their testimonies about the lack of access to safe out of hospital birthing options and menstrual products.

Near the conclusion of my internship I was tasked with writing a letter of support to Senate President Karen E. Spilka and Speaker of the House Robert E. DeLeo on behalf of the commission for the Midwifery Bill. It was truly a great feeling when this bill passed unanimously in the weeks following.

Ultimately, this opportunity has shown me the importance of advocacy, and the founding principles of Brandeis University being social justice. I have come out of this more knowledgeable and empowered to convey the needs of my community to legislators while uplifting the voices of women and girls.

Warmly,
Agnes Fosua Nkansah





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for your generous gift to the WOW Social Justice fellowship program. Without your incredible kindness, I would have been unable to pursue a political internship at **Sierra Club's Massachusetts Chapter** this summer. The invaluable skills, experiences, and perspective which I gained during my time as an intern have fostered unimaginable personal and professional growth – and have greatly shaped my trajectory for the future.

I am a rising senior, double majoring in Environmental Studies and Politics, with a minor in Anthropology. Like many others of my generation, I am deeply disturbed by the destruction of our planet; its biodiversity and natural resources – and the apathy with which those in power address these challenges. My Brandeis education has solidified for me that the solution is to loudly and relentlessly call for justice and hold those in power accountable for their inaction. However, environmental justice cannot simply mean protecting the planet, it must also mean protecting historically vulnerable, frontline, and marginalized communities – and including their voices in making decisions about our future. When I discovered Sierra Club's Political Internship – I was excited to have the opportunity to work in a position that combined my interests of environmental policy and human rights, actively working to be a part of this solution.

Sierra Club is one of the largest and oldest grassroots environmental advocacy organizations in the country, with over 100,000 members and volunteers in Massachusetts, and a mission of “enlist[ing] humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment.” One element of this mission is political advocacy – which entails endorsing candidates for elected office who have demonstrated a commitment to environmental justice.

As an intern, I was assigned to the Sierra Club endorsed candidate, Erika Uyterhoeven's campaign for State Representative in the 27th Middlesex District (Somerville). Erika is a young progressive candidate, running on a platform that includes a Green New Deal for Massachusetts and 100% renewable energy, Medicare for All, affordable housing as a right, fully-funded public education, and racial and economic justice. However, taking action and fighting for these bold changes requires building a movement of supporters, volunteers, and donors.

My responsibilities included writing and creating digital content for the campaign's social media platforms, assisting in website development, conducting policy research, applying for endorsements, managing volunteer recruitment, and making thousands of phone calls – remotely canvassing Somerville voters on behalf of Erika. While it was exhausting work, made even more difficult by the challenges COVID presented – the opportunity to help of create a movement, and work for a cause I believe in, made the experience fulfilling.

I'm extremely grateful to have had this opportunity – which would not have happened without your generosity. The experiences that this summer taught me more than I could have dreamed of and affirmed that a future in social justice work is not only important, but possible. Thank you for giving me the tools to start my career and supporting me and my peers in pursuing our passions!

Sincerely,
Aaron Pins





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to sincerely thank you for your contribution to the Brandeis Social Justice WOW Program. I and other numerous Brandeis students would not have had the opportunity to engage in meaningful social justice work without your kind support. With the fund, I was able to intern for the **Right to Immigration Institute**, a frontier non-profit organization fighting for the rights of immigrants.

I am a senior at Brandeis, majoring in economics and philosophy with minors in legal studies, peace, conflict, and coexistence studies. Interning for TRII has provided me with an opportunity to observe and participate in civic engagement. I was assigned the task of conducting research on recent changes to the law proposed by the Department of Homeland Security. I have also been doing research on future asylum seekers who would be negatively affected by the rule change. Based on this research, I have been helping the Institute to prepare its comments on the rule change. I was assigned to organize a writing workshop on behalf of TRII to mobilize more people to write and submit their comments by the deadline to support asylum seekers.

This internship opportunity firmed my belief in my commitment to social justice, and I am planning on going to law school to further pursue my interests. I would not be able to accept the offer without the support from WOW, and I sincerely appreciate your contribution to the program.

Sincerely,
Wenjing (Wynne) Qin





Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

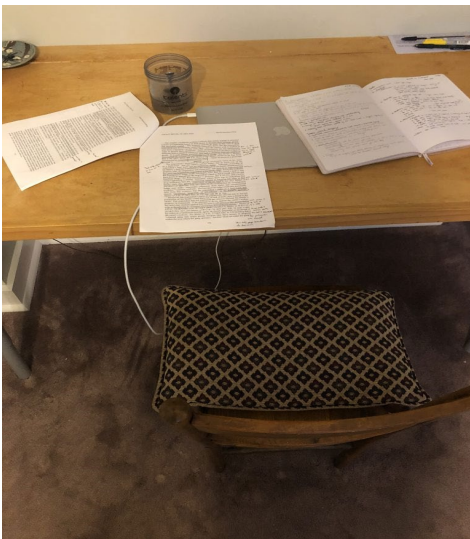
I want to offer my gratitude toward you and your conscious effort to promote the ideals upon which Brandeis is built, those of speaking and acting out against injustices wherever they are identified. Your generous contributions have enabled myself and other like-minded students to pursue work in fields that promote a more equal, inclusive, and just future for us all. I know that the importance of the fields we were exposed to this summer are not lost on us. I would venture to say many of us have come away from the summer with a deeper understanding of how imperative it is to work to better the lives of others.

This summer, I worked for the immigration unit at **The Legal Aid Society**. The organization aims to provide indigent individuals in the city of New York with the legal representation they deserve. The organization is unique in the breadth of its services, and the extent of its reach in communities across the five boroughs. I feel very grateful to have been given a front row seat to some of the inner working of the unit. The work I witnessed was really something special, and was a great reminder of how many dedicated, caring, and passionate people there are out there working to make their cities and countries better places for all.

The work I did stretched across a lot of different types of tasks. Nonprofit work seems to be a lot of jumping in to help wherever and whenever you can, which I appreciate. I had two advisors who I worked for, helping them with tasks big and small. I called clients to get information, filled out government forms, organized files, requested documents, and compiled filings. For my more long term projects, I created a country conditions guide for the treatment of people with mental disabilities in China, interviewed a domestic violence survivor and wrote her affidavit, worked with clients applying for DACA, and created a testimony style video for a client we were trying to humanize, interviewing her family members and editing/mixing the clips.



The best part of my work was definitely the interviewing. The work was hard, even for me, who had a fraction of the responsibility and work of a lawyer in the organization. The immigration system is pitted against the people who seek help from the unit, which is just the first of many compounding realities that are frustrating and sad. However, interpersonal communication with clients is one of the things that makes the work so wonderful, I think. It was amazing to create a bond with someone, and feel like I was doing my best to explain her story to a government who doesn't want to listen. The conversations we had, despite being difficult and heavy in subject matter most of the time, served as a great reminder that people with robust lives, not numbers and names on paper, are the ones going through the system.



The immense amount of empathy, compassion, and dedication I saw demonstrated by the people I worked with begins, I believe, with a recognition of this statement as a fact for so many of the immigrants who come to this country. I'll pass the message along.

I hope this letter has found you safe and healthy, and has left you feeling, regardless of where you stood before, just a little bit more hopeful about the future.

My many thanks, once again,
Noa Reiter



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to thank you for your generous contribution to the Brandeis WOW Social Justice scholarship that has allowed me and other Brandeis students the opportunity to pursue incredible summer internships. This summer allowed me to explore a future career opportunity while contributing to a crucial social justice cause.

I am a senior double majoring in International and Global Studies and Health: Science, Society, and Policy with minors in Economics and East Asian Studies. After graduation I hope to join the Peace Corps as a Community Health Volunteer.

Over the past summer I partook in a virtual internship at **Love4Bukwo Hospital** based in Bukwo, Uganda. The founder grew up in Bukwo and witnessed the healthcare inequalities that people faced. If people had healthcare emergencies, they would sometimes have to travel to the closest hospital in Kenya over 30 kilometers from town through dirt roads oftentimes unpassable. Even if people were able to access healthcare in Kenya, sometimes they were unable to pay the fee. Once operational, Love4Bukwo Hospital will be addressing the healthcare inequalities bringing accessible and affordable healthcare options to the people of Bukwo.

Given the complications that COVID had presented for individuals around the world the internship experience looked different than initially intended. Nonetheless, I assisted the organization with several projects all to help Love4Bukwo towards their mission of providing accessible and affordable healthcare to the people of Bukwo. I contributed to writing a successfully funded USAID grant. I also worked on curating materials for COVID-19 and virus prevention education at the hospital. Part of my job as an intern was learning about hospital policies and procedures in the US and developing a strategy for how they can be adopted and implemented into Uganda according to the Ugandan Ministry of Health Standards.



Thank you once again for granting me an opportunity to have this wonderful experience. I am very grateful that I had the opportunity to work at such an organization that directly ties into what I hope to do after graduation.

Sincerely,
Kate Ross

Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am writing to thank you for your continued support for the Brandeis Social Justice WOW program. This summer I was a fellow with the Boston chapter of **IfNotNow**, an American Jewish organization working to end the Israeli occupation of Palestine and achieve freedom and dignity for all Israelis, Palestinians and Jews. As a fellow, I was able to experience working in a non-profit that made social justice its priority.



I led a local campaign in Boston, in coordination with IfNotNow's national campaign, around the Israeli government's threat of annexing the West Bank. Annexation would have made the existing occupation permanent in that formal, or de jure, annexation codifies the human rights violations happening under occupation, such as illegal land grabs, property destruction, and displacement. IfNotNow, as a progressive Jewish organization, sees the liberation of Palestine fully linked to the liberation of Jewish people, so the prospect of annexation naturally became a focus of this summer's work. As an American Jew I want to be part of this because the idea of tikkun olam, or repairing the world, is intrinsic to my Jewish identity.



I worked with members of the Boston chapter in a variety of capacities. One highlight was organizing constituent meetings with the offices of Rep. Katherine Clark, Rep. Ayanna Pressley, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren to discuss conditionalizing military funding. Rep. Pressley actually attended our meeting and she took our words to heart by signing onto a letter spearheaded by progressive lawmakers, such as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Bernie Sanders, that urged congress to place conditions on military funding to Israel. In addition to this, I organized a call-in campaign to the Massachusetts elected officials who had not yet taken action to oppose annexation. I also oversaw the making of a short video explaining the history of U.S. conditional aid to Israel and the urgency of doing it now. In doing these things, and more, I learned what to do and how to lead others on a fast-moving campaign. I know I will take this knowledge with me as I continue at Brandeis and apply my new organizational and leadership skills to whatever I do at school and in the future.

Thank you again for helping me work for an organization that truly is helping make this world more just. Without your support, this summer would not have been possible for me and for that I am very grateful.

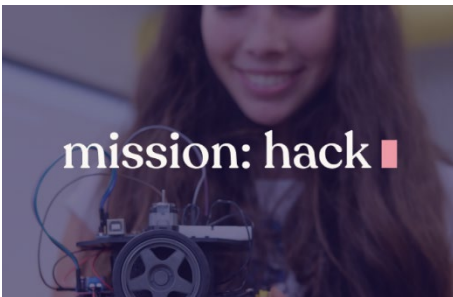
Warmly,
Miranda Sullivan



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous donation helping fund the WOW Social Justice Fellowship program. Your contribution enabled me to pursue an unpaid internship during an unprecedented time in our world. Without this internship and your assistance my summer would have lacked the learning and substance that I was seeking.

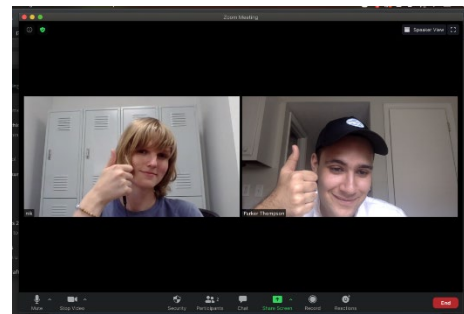
I had the privilege of working with the **Charleston Digital Corridor** (CDC) in Charleston, SC. The CDC is focused on advancing Charleston's tech economy as well as creating opportunities for a diverse set of entrepreneurs in the region. Having been born and raised in South Carolina, I felt this was an incredible opportunity to make an impact in my local community. The bulk of my time at the CDC was spent conducting research and developing diversity reports on the tech industry at large as well as in Southern specific regions. I was largely focused on the racial and gender disparities in the tech industry, especially as they pertain to computer science.



During my internship, I conducted over fifty interviews with executives, programmers, and engineers on their personal experiences in the tech industry. I devised this effort to better reinforce my research as well as gain an enhanced perspective as I developed my reports. This project in particular was deeply enriching both personally and professionally.

The in-between time during my projects was spent developing a future summer program aimed at empowering underserved young adults through experiential STEM learning to encourage growth and diversity in a technology focused world. The program, named Mission: Hack, will tentatively begin piloting in 3 cities in the U.S. during the summer of 2021.

In addition to my working accomplishments over the course of the internship, I was able to better understand my career pathway moving forward. Having long held a passion for community impact and diversification research, my interests were reinforced this summer. Without this internship I believe my summer would've been much more sedentary. I am so grateful to have partaken in this program and look forward to seeing its exponential impact on me in the future.



With significant gratitude,
Parker Thompson



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

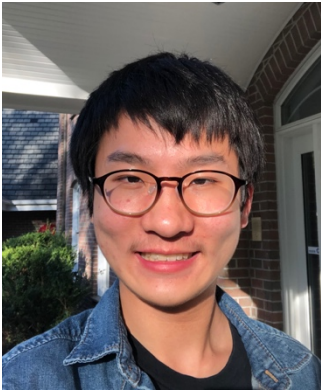
I would like to start off this letter by expressing a sincere thank you for your support of the Louis D. Brandeis Social Justice World of Work Fellowship program at Brandeis. With your help, I was able to pursue a career path that I am greatly interested in and gain important hands-on work experience. I've undoubtedly been propelled me in the right direction professionally for the career I hope to attain in the future.

This summer, I worked with the **Boston Mayor's Office Department of Public Safety** on a program titled Transition H.O.P.E. The primary focus of the Department of Public Safety is to implement violence prevention techniques into the various communities in Boston and investing in said communities by teaching and educating the youth. My program specifically worked with justice system-involved high school-aged students from Boston who are given the opportunity to work with various college partners (Brandeis, Harvard, MIT, etc.) on workshops to develop their social-emotional learning and academic. With one university, students discussed generational cycles of trauma and wealth and the role that plays in their individual lives where at another university students were able to work on their interview and public speaking skills by interviewing prominent leaders from the Boston-area. Alongside that, the students are challenged to identify their own personal barriers and obstacles and are guided by the program's supervisors on how to bring forth solutions and strategies to their life circumstances. Finally, students who have demonstrated exceptional growth and promise are selected to work with the program's college partners as teaching assistants during the school year where they will work with graduate school professors by acting as a real-life resource in their communities.

As for my job, I was responsible for building and cultivating a relationship with the high school program participants in order to promote their personal, professional, emotional, and academic development; I acted as a mentor to the system-involved youth by guiding and preparing them to develop a plan for their futures; I helped lead and facilitate college-level daily discussions on the issues plaguing their communities and educating the youth on violence prevention techniques as well as exposing them to pathways beyond high school; I developed and analyzed surveys and assessments for the youth, based on the program goals, that measure their growth; and finally I created a magazine that was a compilation of the participants' stories and poetry that will be used in college courses as a part of learning material.

I cannot convey my gratitude enough for your support of this educational fund. Honestly and truly, I can say that thanks to the assistance you have provided to me, I have had a life-changing summer working with my internship. After my internship has commenced, I hope to continue working with system-involved youth and eventually attend law school post-graduation.

Sincerely,
Marissa G. Torelli






Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I am so grateful for your contribution to the Social Justice WOW program at Brandeis. I am sure your generosity has supported so many students, including me, to pursue their goal of advocating for social justice. In this special time, when we must fight against the global pandemic, the funding I received greatly reduced my burden and enabled me to focus on my virtual work. I am happy to see that through my hard work over the summer, I've helped address the need of veterans, thereby expanding the value of the program.

I am a sophomore at Brandeis majoring in Economics, and I always want to apply what I learn to help others. The organization I've been working for is **BRAVE for Veterans, Inc.** It is a non-profit organization whose core mission is to contribute to veterans' well-being by helping them secure self-sustaining employment.

During the course of the summer, I've done research to prepare for the launch of a talent search program that connects veterans with employers. I not only helped identify some companies' strategies regarding hiring veterans, but also analyzed unemployment data of veterans in the past few months. It struck me as I found out how much the pandemic had affected the employment of veterans, causing a lot of them lose their jobs. I hope my contribution to BRAVE can ease the difficulties they face. My internship provided me a lot of insight into the field of veteran service and even non-profit work in general, and I will continue working for BRAVE, using what I learn from the past summer.

What makes BRAVE different?

		
Wraparound services	Gap Fillers	Program measurement
pioneered by BRAVE as "whole-person"	BRAVE detects gaps and breaks and improves them	based on the successful recommendation and implementation of policy affecting all veterans and possibly the entire Force.

I want to thank you again for your generous support, without which I could not achieve the above. It's been my pleasure to be offered the grant. Your advocacy will inspire me to keep moving forward and advancing social justice, just like a Brandeis student.

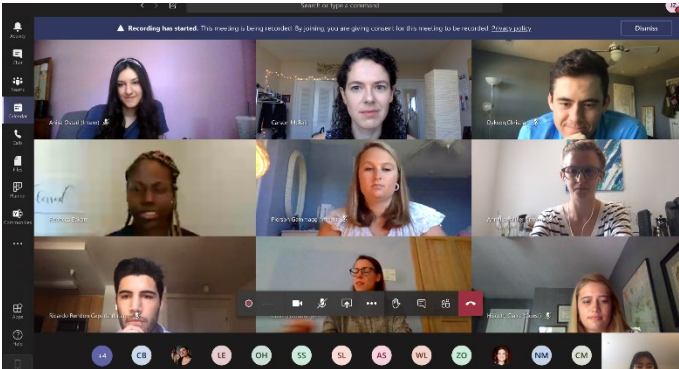
Sincerely,
Zhiyu Wang



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

I want to thank you for contributing to the WOW Social Justice scholarship that has allowed me and many other Brandeis students to intern at incredible organizations during the summer. I am currently a senior at Brandeis, majoring in Economics and Sociology and minoring in Psychology. I've always liked this quote by Martin Luther King, "life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others," and I believe interning at a non-profit organization would be a good first step to start practicing social justice.

Over this past summer I interned at **Ashoka**, a non-profit organization that targets to solve various social issues and promotes positive changes in innovative ways. Compared to other organizations, Ashoka has a rather unique mission and theory of change, that is to build an "everyone is a changemaker" world and all of their programs and work revolve around this. Through establishing programs in more than 90 countries, Ashoka tries to accomplish its mission through finding and supporting social entrepreneurs around the world, partnering with major corporations and helping evolve their organizational models and assisting the next generation with critical skills to initiate social changes.



The project I'm working on in Ashoka is called knowledge management, that is, to develop a space for my department on Confluence, the internal platform Ashoka is using. Since Ashoka is a global organization with offices around the world, internal communication between different offices becomes especially important. With that being said, the purpose of the space I'm building is to provide a knowledge base

where all materials are organized and shared logically, and the staff can utilize the space to work more efficiently and effectively together. Even though my project is not associated with any of Asoka's external facing programs, I think there's a significance to working on internal development as it's the backbone of every well-functioning organization.

Although due to the Covid-19 crisis, my internship at Ashoka was entirely remote, I have learned so many important skills and gained so much inspiration throughout the 10 weeks, and none of these would have been possible without your generosity. I'm so grateful for the opportunity you offered and I believe the knowledge and lessons acquired this past summer are broadly applicable to every aspect of my life and will benefit me enormously in the future. Thank you again for your support and contribution.

Best Regards,
Jiachen Zhu



Dear Supporters of the Legacy Fund,

Thank you so much for funding my summer internship with the **National Consumers League**. I had a fantastic time working with them and learning about the way health policy impacts American consumers every day. This is an incredibly challenging time to be working in health and an even more difficult time trying to navigate health and safety as a consumer. I feel really lucky to have been able to learn from experts in this field and have a front seat to what is certainly the most historic moment health has had.

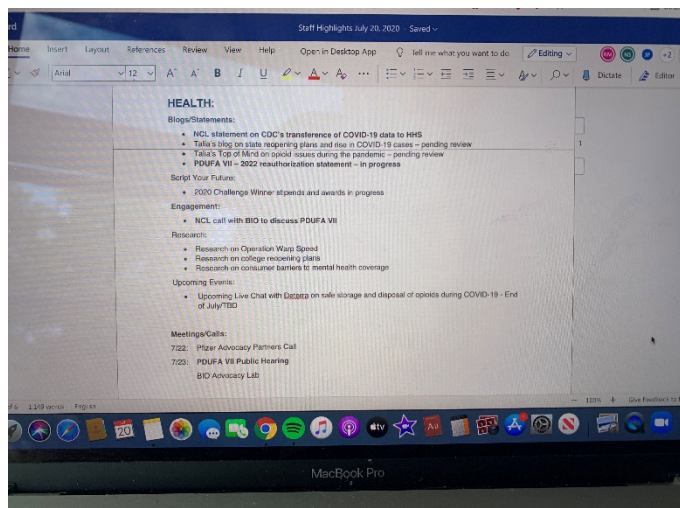
Over the course of the summer, I developed deep relationships with my supervisor and the director of NCL. Sally Greenberg, the leader of NCL, and I were even able to go for a socially distant walk around Capitol Hill in June. Despite being on Zoom, my colleagues went out of their way to make me feel welcome and included on the team. I was part of weekly staff calls, governmental hearings, and our annual Script Your Future competition. My supervisor, Nissa, and I met weekly (if not more) and after a while, I found that our meetings were a balance of banter and work that I looked forward to every time.

I'm really proud of the work I was able to accomplish in the short time that I got to work with NCL. I wrote multiple blog pieces for the NCL website about different health areas of my choice, did a ton of research on health issues related and unrelated to the current pandemic, and helped support my supervisor on numerous projects. I think the work I did this summer was really valuable in helping me to put my own thoughts and feelings about the pandemic into perspective and really helped me to understand my role in ensuring the safety and health of my family, community, and self. I really feel as though I gained a lot of first-hand knowledge and experience about the pandemic specifically, which gave me much more of a sense of what our country is going through.

Of course, none of this would have been possible for me without the generous support of the Legacy Fund. I'm lucky enough that I was able to have a stable living environment in which my family supported my internship and gave me space and time necessary for Zoom calls and work completion, but the support of the Legacy Fund really enabled me to do an internship that will benefit and inform my future, otherwise, I would have needed to work elsewhere during the summer. I've decided to divide my stipend between donations to anti-racist organizations and saving for law school. I'm so grateful that you've chosen to support the Legacy Fund and I sincerely hope that other students are afforded the same opportunity I was this summer.

Thank you so much again for all of your support and the support from the Hiatt Career Center. While this year will certainly be unforgettable, my internship will always be meaningful to me for positive reasons. The pandemic hampered my time and Brandeis but being able to do this internship over the summer was inspiring and invigorating. I'm so excited to see where my newfound knowledge about health policy takes me and I'm hoping every day that our government prioritizes health the same way that NCL does. Thank you.

Yours,
Talia Zitner





Brandeis