

Grace Yoon
Lesotho-Boston Health Alliance (LeBoHA)
Lesotho, Africa
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Dear JJCF Board Members,

I express my sincere gratitude for your support for my fruitful summer internship in Lesotho. The internship at LeBoHA was truly a transformative experience in my life as I begin to consider different professional paths that will allow me to impact the health of global populations. In Lesotho, for the first time in my life, I experienced daily life in a developing country, including taking bucket baths and doing laundry by hand. It was not an easy transition, but from enduring and adapting to this new lifestyle, I was able to better connect with the locals and become a stronger individual adaptable to a less-privileged lifestyle.

Previous to the internship, I had experience with similar qualitative health system research in domestic hospital settings in Boston. During the past couple of years, my interest to expand my skills in the global field grew stronger and stronger. JJCF realized my dreams to break my path in global health work, along with my mentors at Boston University Medical Campus. My desire was to go beyond my environment, to learn, investigate and improve the lives of populations with fundamental systemic issues around the world. Now, I recognize that my interests were vague. By living and working with the local Basotho people this summer, my goals and aims became much clearer as a hopeful global health researcher – to find and initiate systemic interventions that prioritizes the community and culture of the local setting to improve population health.

While in Lesotho, I recognized the ineffectiveness of hands-off aid from numerous prominent international government bodies and nonprofit organizations. I value LeBoHA's efforts because their mission is to empower local Basotho healthcare professionals to stand up and take charge of their own communities and nation's health. Although there is still much work to be done in various sectors of the organization and the nation as a whole, I am confident in saying that JJCF's support for my internship had a significant impact in the effort to strengthen the capacity of Basotho health workers.

Sincerely,

Grace H. Yoon, BA
Boston University School of Public Health