

Brandon Kabagambe

CARE International in Rwanda Internship

Kigali, Rwanda.

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Dear JJCF Board Members,

I would like to sincerely thank the Jessica Jennifer Cohen Foundation for opening the door to the great experience I had with CARE International in Rwanda. After graduation, I believed that I was prepared to return to my country to start generating solutions to beleaguering challenges that continue to evade social remedy. I was also offered an unpaid opportunity that would offer me a platform through which I could learn, contribute, grow and begin to tackle some of the challenges facing my country.

The only remaining challenge to fulfilling my dream was the financial disability. It is in this regard that I want to thank JJCF for not only believing and investing in my dream but also indirectly helping the beneficiaries of my services while at CARE Rwanda. It might have been possible that I would not have taken the opportunity due to lack of funds, and thus not having all the exposure I had. It is financial disabilities like this that I have seen destroying peoples' lives throughout my internship—children dropping out of school, fathers neglecting their sons and daughters, and mothers constantly facing gender-balanced violence.

During my internship, I was exposed to understanding gender-based violence roots in what may be called traditional communities/villages. I also developed an understanding of the evil of this violence to couples, and to the nuclear and extended family, as well as its effect on the sustainable development of the nation. I may not have been a beneficiary of the project, but I was enlightened on the forms of GBV that one may just assume as normal but yet violating the other ones' rights. This is the knowledge that I would have missed if my internship proposal had not been funded by JJCF.

Sincerely,

Brandon Kabagambe