

Overview

[The Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University](#) (GHELI) supports interdisciplinary education about world health through the production, curation, and dissemination of educational public goods. This exemplar work was a final project for “World Health: Challenges and Opportunities,” a General Education course at Harvard College taught by GHELI Faculty Director Sue J. Goldie. For this creative assessment designed with support from GHELI, students systematically analyze a societal health challenge they care about and create a “real world” product intended to influence policy or motivate change.

Abstract

A song that highlights the problem of youth homelessness in America.

Artist

Michael Yin (2020)

Caption

While doing research for my policy brief on homelessness and mental illness in California, I saw a statistic that left me speechless: 40-50% of youth in foster care become homeless within a year and a half of emancipation. I’ve since dug deeper into the numbers and found that there’s not so clear a consensus, but that doesn’t make foster children aging into homelessness any less of an important issue.

Artist Lens

I knew I wanted to write a song about the problem, and inspiration struck when I watched a video about [Jacob](#), a 21-year-old in that exact situation. What struck me most was his compassion: his thoughtfulness for others in need went straight into the chorus of the song. I chose to write music because it’s often lyrics and melodies that remain in my head at night. Music is universal, and for a problem so urgent, I wanted to offer a glimpse into Jacob’s story to as many people as I could.

Media

Musical Composition



[Watch A Song About Youth Homelessness](#)