

20 Years of Grantmaking for Midwifery in North America

The 2017 Birth Trust: doing the work, making a difference

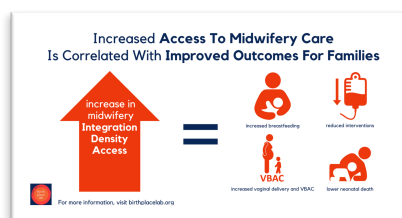
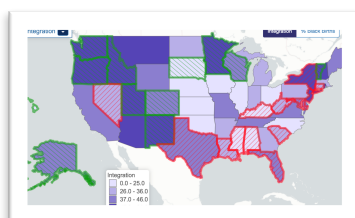
**Midwifery Assistant
Program: 5-week training
for 15 aspiring midwives of
color with resources,
mentors, and
peer support**

ANCIENT SONG
DOULA SERVICES



Midwifery Integration Study infographics and web site

HOME BIRTH SUMMIT RESEARCH AND DATA TASKFORCE



**Centering voices that are
missing from most national
midwifery leadership
tables: black midwives,
midwives of color,
LGBTQ2S**

MANA DIVISION OF
ACCESS AND EQUITY



**Survey of midwives across
the nation about their
experiences with insurance
reimbursement**

MANA HEALTH
POLICY AND
ADVOCACY



**Giving Voice to Mothers:
Data analysis for study
using unique participatory
action model**

HOME BIRTH
SUMMIT
CONSUMER
TASK FORCE



**Spanish-
language
web site for
The Birth
Place**

COMMONSENSE
CHILDBIRTH

**NARM
Student-of-Color
Prep Program**

CALIFORNIA
ASSOCIATION OF
MIDWIVES



For a complete list of grants, go to formidwifery.org/projects-funded

The Foundation for the Advancement of Midwifery is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Board of Directors: Emily Anesta (President), Janis Gildin, Kirsten Kowalski-Lane,
RaShaunda Lugrand, Lauren Miller, Chanel Porchia-Albert, Audra Post

Executive Director: Tamara Wrenn

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From the Executive Director

In spite of a challenging year in the United States of America, FAM was fortunate enough to harness its resources and do good work. It would be wrong not to acknowledge the families separated at this country's borders, the voluminous cries of #metoo, and the escalation of the loss of life or the near miss among Black and Brown women during and after childbirth. For them, and others who struggled this year, I encourage everyone to hold a space for them in your prayers.

As FAM's executive director I would define 2017 - 2018 as a year of listening good. Listening to community leaders individually and collectively, listening to the data, the media, our colleagues in the birth world, and listening to one another. As a result, we did some hard individual and organizational work and made tough decisions.

Personally, the hardest part for me was having to hit the send button on the email that read "FAM will not be allocating grants under the Birth Trust this year." Grant making and relationship building are two aspects of my job that I am most passionate about and not being able to engage in grant making was painful for me, even though I knew in the long run it would make FAM stronger.

Instead, I was able to help give voice to communities of color by working on the committee that planned and implemented FAM's first ever Community Microgrants. The individuals who run each project are amazing community leaders and I am proud to know and support every one of them.

I'd like to end on a forward-looking note and invite you, the reader, to join FAM. There's always a seat at our table. You can apply to join the board, join us on social media, make a donation before the year ends, or become a Birth Trustee - a recurring monthly donor. Whatever decision you make, do it today.

Warmly,

Tamara Wrenn



Photos courtesy of Chocolate Milk Café, a FAM 2018 Community Microgrant recipient

Want to make an impact on the future of midwifery in North America? Join us.

JOIN THE BOARD. FAM is currently seeking to fill two open positions on our board of directors. Do you have financial skills and an interest in serving as Treasurer? Do you have skills in fundraising and development? We want you!

VOLUNTEER WITH FAM. We need your brilliance! Currently, we have opportunities to join our fundraising or communications teams, but new opportunities occur on a rolling basis.

BECOME A FAM STUDENT AMBASSADOR. You are the next generation of midwives and we want to connect with you. As an ambassador, you will take part in projects with the executive director and board to raise awareness of FAM and midwifery.

Interested? Contact us at info@formidwifery.org

Thank you to all who donated items to our 2017 Auction, including: Andaluz Water Birth Center, Apothacarium, Benefit Cosmetics, The Birth Bag Inc, Connecticut Childbirth Center, Evidence-Based Birth, The Farm, Full Spectrum Doula Circles, Kitzinger Family, Roots Wellness & Fitness, Why Not Home, Y&I Clothing, Katie Atkinson, Maggie Bennet, Kathleen Buckley, Holly Coley, Sharon Economides, Ilka Fanning, Sheila Fleming, Amanda Geavette, Eliana Gilad, Staci Hall, Valeree Hemighass, Maria Iorillo, Lizzie Kitue, Heidi Livingston, Ian Meilinger, Tia Meilinger, Ginny Miller, Nile Nash, Judy Norsigian, Lauren O'Neil, Jane Pincus, Jo-Anna Rorie, Saveida Sethi, Sarah Tarver-Wahlquist, Christian Toscano, Naomi Watrous, Erin Zaffis, Danielle Zinaich Strahl

Introducing the Community Microgrant Fund

by Janis Gildin and Tamara Wrenn

This has been a year of focused re-imagining and re-creation at FAM. We are engaging in the work of shifting the narrative and changing the story of maternity care in North America by acknowledging and addressing system barriers in our own nonprofit infrastructure, in our strategic goal setting, in our approach to development and communications, as well as in our grant-making paradigms. The FAM Community Microgrant initiative emerged as one tangible result of this year of focus.

FAM established the Community Microgrant Fund to support community-based projects that address disparities and inequities in marginalized and vulnerable communities. The objective of the fund is to initiate grassroots, action-based solutions to self-identified challenges through community directed problem solving and leadership development. FAM's vision of access to respectful and culturally appropriate maternity care from community-based midwives, available to all families and recognized as a human right, is enhanced by the contributions of each of our community microgrant recipients. We honor them for their work. The following six community microgrants were distributed this year:

Birth from the Earth. Yonkers, NY: Chocolate Milk Café

Chocolate Milk Café is designed to provide education, support, resources and a safe space in which to collectively gather on a regular basis in order to address existing barriers to successful breastfeeding for women of color and improve outcomes in regards to maternal and infant health in the local community.

Birthing People Foundation. Los Angeles, CA: Birthworker Training for WOC/POC

Established to address the alarming disparities in outcomes for birthing people of color and those from other marginalized communities, the Birthworker Training for Women of Color/People of Color provides quality training inclusive of LGBTQI, non-gender-conforming persons, Latinx and indigenous populations.

Equity in Midwifery Education. Leavenworth, WA: Web-based Resource

Equitymidwifery.org, aims to amplify the voices and perspectives of midwives and aspiring midwives of color and serve as a living repository for the transformative ideas and tools necessary to bring about equity in midwifery education and training.

Center for Indigenous Midwifery. Olympia, WA: Salish Seas Indigenous Birthworker Gathering and Community Awareness Event

The community day included tribal members along with family health and social justice organizations with a focus on health inequities in Indian country and the intersections of sovereignty, environmental and reproductive justice, and community healing.

California Association of Midwives. Coarsegold, CA: Student Midwives of Color Exam Prep

CAM will develop and implement an exam preparation program in order to facilitate an increase in the enrollment and retention of aspiring midwives of color in midwifery education and training programs.

National Black Midwives Alliance. Miami, FL: Black Midwife Mentor Program

The Black Midwife Mentor program works to pair black midwifery students and preceptors together in order to establish pivotal learning relationships free from racial microaggressions and the unrecognized effects of implicit bias and unacknowledged white privilege.

From the President

In 1998, a group of passionate midwives and advocates founded FAM to advance the midwifery model of care in North America. Over the past 20 years, FAM has funded groundbreaking research and data collection, the establishment of allied midwifery organizations, public awareness campaigns, policy initiatives, fledgling community organizations, and more. Today, new leaders have taken the mantle of FAM with respect and admiration for the years of dedication and hard work of our foremothers. We seek to continue FAM's impact and evolution, embracing equity and social justice values to diversify the midwifery profession, the clients served by midwives, and our organizations.

During this year of transition, we recognized the imperative for FAM to update our models of fundraising and grantmaking, to grow our impact and reach, and to reflect our values and the need for transformative change. We took a break from our traditional grantmaking cycle to create space for capacity building. While our work is not complete, I am proud to say that we have added three new board members, transitioned board leadership to a new president (me), launched our Student Ambassador program, initiated our community microgrants program, and developed tools and plans to make our work more effective.

In the spring, we welcomed new board members Chanel Porchia-Albert, RaShaunda Lugrand, and Audra Post. These women are emerging leaders in the midwifery movement and I am thrilled to collaborate with them and all our board members in this work. With gratitude and humility, we thank outgoing FAM board members Laurie Foster, Priya Morganstern, Geradine Simkins, and Vicki Hedley.

The innovations and impact of our FAM grantees give me hope for the future of birthing in North America. Thank you, our donors and grantees, for your passion and commitment to the advancement of midwifery.

In gratitude,

Emily Anesta

*20 years of grantmaking
for midwifery
in North America*

THANKS TO YOU

For 20 years, FAM has relied on the generous supporters of midwifery who donate to FAM each year. Your support enables us to fund programs and projects that advance midwifery and access to midwives in North America.



www.formidwifery.org/donate