



## **The Bubbe Hannah Fund**

Since The Midwife Center became an independent, nonprofit organization in 2000, it has worked to consistently provide excellent and personalized care to hundreds of individuals and families, including those with barriers to receiving quality healthcare.

In 2005, The Midwife Center established its “Women’s Health Fund” to support programs and services for individuals who are vulnerable to poor health outcomes, such as With Woman Fridays, Con Mujeres, postpartum phone counseling, class scholarships, and pregnancy and birthing care for those who are underinsured.

In 2009, The Midwife Center launched its Beginnings Campaign to fortify The Midwife Center with the resources it needs to ensure that it enters the next decade as strong as possible. The campaign was designed to address three important areas of The Midwife Center: improve the Center's infrastructure; launch a public information campaign about the benefits of midwifery and birth center care; and build an operating reserve for the Women's Health Fund. Significant individual donor support came from the Raphael family. In appreciation of their generous contribution, the new name of the Women’s Health Fund is now the Bubbe Hannah Fund, in honor of their ancestor, Hannah Sandusky (“aka Bubbe Hannah”), who was a midwife in the Hill District over 100 years ago.

Continuing contributions to The Midwife Center ensure that programs for individuals who are vulnerable to poor health outcomes continue to thrive. Please consider making your tax-deductible donation to The Midwife Center today on our website or by sending a check to The Midwife Center at 2831 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

## **About Bubbe Hannah**

Bubbe Hannah Sandusky, was more than a midwife to European Jewish community in the Hill District during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Born in 1827 in the Kovno province of Lithuania, Hannah immigrated to Pittsburgh with her husband and son in 1861. She brought with her a rich knowledge of midwifery that she learned from observing her mother in their small village. Her traditional techniques were so effective that local doctors often consulted Hannah about complicated deliveries, and even observed her before learning how to deliver babies themselves. But Bubbe Hannah, as she was lovingly called by the European Jewish community of Pittsburgh (“bubbe” or “bobba” is the Yiddish term for “granny”), did more than merely deliver well over 3,500 registered births during her time as a midwife in our city.

Hannah was known as “the angel” or “the saint” to the families she helped. Her skills in delivery were surpassed only by her generosity. She never accepted payment for her work, and would provide for the newborns she delivered out of her own pocket if their families could not. Having

attended a school of midwifery in Germany, where she traveled to seek treatment for her son's eye troubles after some years in Pittsburgh, Hannah Sandusky was America's first credentialed midwife. But as one of the first of the American Jewish midwives, her traditional role as a midwife extended into the community, to which she provided advice to the troubled, consolation to the mourning, and even matchmaking skills in addition to her primary vocation of midwifery. Her knowledge and compassion brought thousands into the world with care and grace over a century ago, and through the Women's Health Fund her good work can continue.

Like Hannah Sandusky, The Midwife Center strives to provide all with quality birth care, even if they lack the means. The legacy that Bubbe Hannah has left with the city of Pittsburgh will continue to provide families with a solid foundation for their newborns. The Midwife Center is proud to uphold Bubbe Hannah's tradition of generosity.

Source: Jewish Women's Archive