

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



*Traci DeGarmo with her baby
at The Midwife Center.*

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, our country continues to lag behind other industrialized nations in maternal and infant health outcomes. There is growing attention to these critical challenges, with more policymakers and advocates now seeking solutions and recognizing the proven benefits of midwifery and birth center care.

At The Midwife Center, we know firsthand that birth centers are essential to addressing the maternal and infant health crisis in the United States. Throughout 2024, we upheld the highest standards of care for our clients, ensuring excellent health outcomes, while also investing in the future — including contributing to advocacy efforts at both the state and national levels. We were proud to support the next generation of midwives by hosting two new certified nurse-midwife graduates through our year-long fellowship program, where they received hands-on training in the birth center model of care.

While we have much to celebrate, we continue to navigate the challenges of rising operating costs and ongoing uncertainty around federal programs that reimburse for maternal, infant, and reproductive health care. We are deeply grateful to our supporters, whose continued — and in many cases, increased — generosity has allowed us to provide high-quality, accessible care to our community.

TMC has always adapted to meet our community's changing needs, and that is only possible because our strong network of supporters consistently shows up for us. With your support in 2024, we made a meaningful impact in the lives of those who depend on our services. Thank you for your partnership as we continue this vital work.

Sincerely,

Christine Haas, MA
Executive Director

Emily McGahey, DM, MSN, CNM, FACNM
Clinical Director

Lindsay Cashman, MS
Board President



Community partners, legislators, and government officials at The Midwife Center on International Women's Day, March 8, 2024.

From left to right: Demia Tyler, Denise O'Connor, Dr. Deb Bogen, Blayre Holmes Davis, County Executive Sara Innamorato, Sara Goulet, Sen. Lindsey Williams, Rep. Joanna McClinton, Rep. Lindsay Powell, Christine Haas, and Alicia Schisler.

OUR IMPACT

MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH OUTCOMES

Cesarean
Section

7.33%
the midwife center

32.4%
U.S.

Premature
Births

2.05%
the midwife center

10.4%
U.S.

Low
Birthweight

2.05%
the midwife center

8.6%
U.S.

2024 TMC data compared to the most recent available CDC data. Outcomes are consistent across race and public and private insurance.



BEST FRIENDS SINCE IN-UTERO

Chelsea, Emily, Glory, and Kate are TMC clients who met and became friends soon after their initial prenatal visits. They joined our CenteringPregnancy program together. After welcoming their babies, they joined our Postpartum Support Group - free to clients - and the friendship between them and their babies has grown.



Dana Bloomberg, MSN, CRNP talking with a client during a primary gynecological appointment. Appointments at The Midwife Center are longer to ensure time for conversation and questions before a physical exam takes place. This helps providers and clients build trust and ensure that each client receives personalized care.

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2024, The Midwife Center welcomed **341 babies**.

5,600+ prenatal appointments

1,000+ postpartum appointments

1,800+ primary gynecological appointments

750+ behavioral health appointments
an increase of more than 37% from 2023

200+ lactation consultations
an increase of more than 60% from 2023

497 postpartum calls
an increase of more than 32% from 2023

LEADING AS SOUTHWESTERN PA'S ONLY LICENSED, FREESTANDING BIRTH CENTER

“ I think on a larger community level, we need to be advocating for us as a society to figure out how we value maternity care in our country because it's not valued...Where you live and where you choose to raise your family shouldn't affect the quality of health care that you receive.

Emily McGahey
DM, MSN, CNM, FACNM for CNN

UPDATES



Carmen Alexander, Community Health Worker, sharing resources with a pregnant client.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

The Midwife Center expanded our commitment to addressing the reproductive, maternal, and infant health crisis and positioning midwifery and birth centers as leaders throughout 2024.

Advocacy to Policymakers

- On International Women’s Day, The Midwife Center hosted a press conference for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, where a \$1.7 million investment to address maternal mortality was announced.
- Emily McGahey, DM, MSN, CNM, FACNM, worked with lawmakers in support of the Midwife Modernization Act, providing testimony in Harrisburg and more to advance legislation to provide licensure for Certified Midwives in Pennsylvania.
- The Midwife Center attended Black Maternal Health Week in Harrisburg in support of the “Mominibus” - a package of statewide legislation championed by the Black Maternal Health Caucus to address maternal and infant health, especially for Black families.

Community Engagement

- The Midwife Center reached over 1,000 community members through events and partnerships.
- A digital ad campaign to increase awareness of The Midwife Center and reach new communities received over 550,000 impressions.

BRIDGING THE GAP

Throughout 2024, an increasing number of our clients experienced major barriers to care - including transportation. In response, The Midwife Center expanded our rideshare program, providing 123 free Lyft rides to clients to attend appointments, get lab work, and even get to The Midwife Center during labor. Transportation is one of many barriers that we seek to address through our Community Health Worker program so our clients can thrive in their healthcare journeys and beyond.

“It is a part of healthcare to reduce stress for our clients who already experience the most accumulated toxic stress and to keep important healthcare within reach for people who may not have the option to take 3-4 hours out of their day to catch 2 buses.

Aya Eliza-Christie

CNM, MSN, who developed our rideshare program

Kim Lucas’ Birth Story

“I am truly grateful to the staff at The Midwife Center for safely delivering my two children. Immediately after delivery, I knew Izzy needed some help, but I wasn’t worried because I completely trusted the midwife and nurse. I feel so lucky to have been a client of TMC for years and admire their skills and mission. An added bonus is that I was a Centering Pregnancy client - meaning group prenatal care. I chose this path because I understood that it would reduce disparities in outcomes for women of color, which is desperately needed. It was great to have that extended time (2 hour visits) to learn from each other and to focus on ourselves. Thank you TMC and Healthy Start for your incredibly important work.”

Kim Lucas, TMC Client

Read the full story at midwifecenter.org.



Kim Lucas, TMC client, with her daughter Izzy in the Mountain Room. She is with her birth team - including Theresa Schmidt, MSN, CNM, Shannon Williams, RN, CLC, and her doula.

ORGANIZATIONAL SPOTLIGHT: MEET TMC'S MIDWIFERY FELLOWS

Since 2010, The Midwife Center has mentored the next generation of midwives through the Ruth Brexendorf Stifel Fellowship. In 2024, we welcomed our 18th and 19th fellows - Haru Shimizu, MSN, CNM, and Anastasia Woods, MPH, MSN, CNM.

Anastasia will be continuing her career at the Atlanta Birth Center, a BIPOC-led nonprofit. We are thrilled that Haru is joining our team as a staff midwife to continue serving families in the Pittsburgh region.

Did you know? All of our current staff midwives first joined The Midwife Center as Fellows. Emily McGahey, now Clinical Director, was our second Fellow in 2011.



Haru Shimizu
MSN, CNM



Anastasia Woods
MPH, MSN, CNM

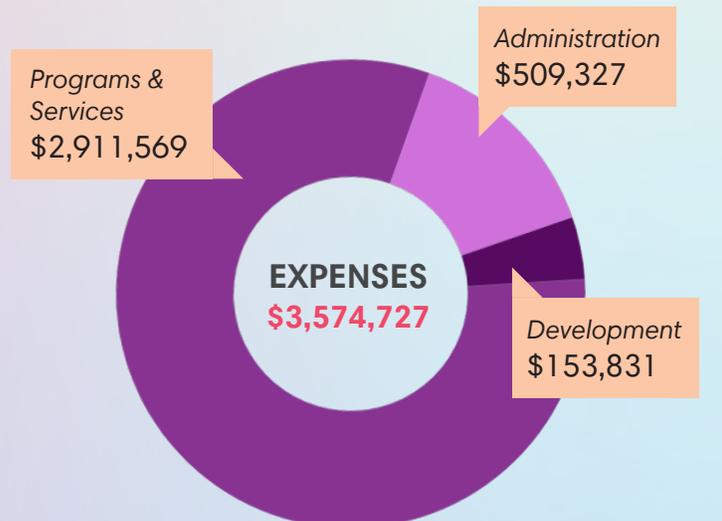
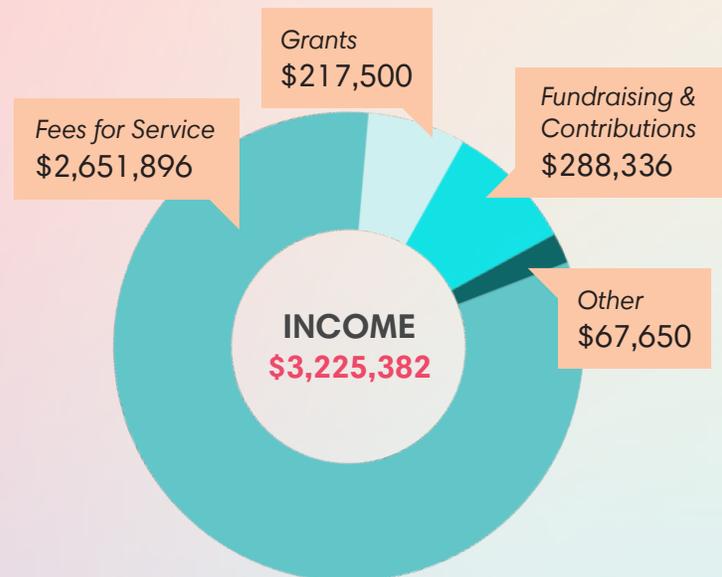
CELEBRATING THE MIDWIFE CENTER'S TEAM

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Association of Birth Centers (AABC) was established by Christine Haas, Executive Director, and Erica Biesinger, Finance Director, in partnership with other PA birth centers. Through the PA chapter of AABC, The Midwife Center and birth centers across the Commonwealth advocate for the birth center model of care and the state and local policies needed to support time-intensive, midwife-led care that results in excellent outcomes.

Mary Cooper, MD, TMC's Medical Director, was named one of the Pennsylvania Medical Society's "Top Physicians Under 40." As Medical Director, Dr. Cooper provides clinical oversight at The Midwife Center and supports our providers in ensuring high-quality care.

DeJané Dozier, MSN, CNM, left The Midwife Center after five years. DeJané joined our team in 2019 as the 15th Ruth Brexendorf Stifel Fellow and then became a staff Midwife. In 2023, she helped to launch CenteringPregnancy, The Midwife Center's first ever group prenatal care program in partnership with Healthy Start, Inc. and provided care to several cohorts.

2024 FINANCIALS



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Allegheny Health Network
Andrea & David Aloe
Michelle & Andrew
Debra Altman-Diamant In Memory Of Arline Diamant-Gold
America's Charities
Christine Andrews
Anonymous (13)
Cathie Applegate In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Caitlin Attinger
Murali Balasubramanyam In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Anna Barga
Chris Barowich
Judith Bellin
Sarah Benckart
Emily Bennett
Rewa & Earl Benovitz
Nancy Bernstein & Robert Schoen
Christie & David Biber
Erica Biesinger
Erin Blache
Dana & Stephen Bloomberg
Amy Bowman-Mcelhone
Heather Bradley & Andrew Eames
Kristen Brennehan
Claudia Broman
Bethany Brown
Gloria Brusoski
Carolyn & William Byham
Carolyn Byrnes
Paul Campbell In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Christopher Capato
Aeisha Carter
Kathryn Cashman
Lindsay & Christian Cashman
Sarah Ceurvost & Tim Israel
Kim Chiarichiaro & Scott McCoy
Tina Chinakarn
Lauren Chisnall & James Pouilliard
James Clark
Tammy Clark
Alice Cline
Nathaniel Cochran & Hadley Dean
Karen Colbert
Mary Cooper, MD
Ann Cope
Trisha Cowen
Jennifer Cox-Siegel & Darren Siegel
Catherine Craft
Tawniece Craighead
Justin Cummings & Harmony Sullivan
Bruce Curry In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Julie Daugherty
Jamini Davies In Honor Of Nicole Rawson
Molly De Aguiar In Honor Of Christopher Capato
Michele De la Reza & Peter Kope
Emilie Delestienne
Melanie Delp
Scott & Wendy Delp
Wayne & Terri DeLuca
Dawn Dengel In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Bonnie DiCarlo
Sharon DiPaolo
Patricia Documet
Mary J Donato In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Leslie Dunn
Eden Hall Foundation
Nancy Eligator & Jonathan Rest In Honor Of Rhoda Eligator
Rhoda Eligator
Jeffrey L. Eppinger and Francesmary Modugno
Mike Erich In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Chana Ertel
Sydney Etheredge
Everence
Stephanie Fedro-Byrom
Joshua Feibelman
Andra Finnegan
Stephanie Fitting
Jeffrey and Andrea Fitting
Josette Fitzgibbons
Ivy Fox-Hays
Elaine Frantz
Steffi Frawley
Chet and Lisa Fuhrman In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Angela Garcia
Kate Gascoine
Melanie Gay In Honor of the Birth Of Emerie Wade
Karl Gibson
Carol Goldberg
Elizabeth Goldberg
Sherree Goldstein
Anita & Nick Greco
Renae Green
Marla Greenwald
Christine Haas
Paul Haas In Honor Of Christine Haas
Casey Hall
William Stucki Hansen and Nancy K. Hansen
Regina Harmon In Honor Of Christine Haas
Cleo Harris
Kate Harris & Marshall Bain
Robin and Steve Hausman
Aleta Heard
Kathryn & Sam Hens-Greco
Sherri Hickernell
Hillman Foundation
Betty Jo Hirschfield Louik & Howard Louik
Deanna Hitchcock
Dr. Harry Hochheiser & Dr. Judith Yanowitz
Mary Hoeller
Megan Holland
Cindy Holmquist In Honor Of Jessie Holmquist, DNP
Carolyn Horne
Sachiko & Christopher Howard
Genevieve Hower & Haakan Younes
Diana Hull
County Executive Sara Innamorato
Jack Buncher Foundation
Aaron Jaffe
James Jennings In Honor of the Birth Of Alyssa DiPaolo
Tom and Pam Jesberger In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Tiffany Jimenez
Crystal Johnson
Lily Johnson
Jim and Sandy Jones In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Sara Jones
Katharine Jordan
Rhonda Jordan
Kim Joseph
Shaun Joseph
Jennifer Kalinowski
Donna Kanner
Julie Kapur
Tabitha Katke
Charles Kent
Miriam & Robert Kerr
Representative Emily Kinkead
Christine & Thomas Kobus
Marguerite Koch In Memory Of Mae Subasic
Stephan Koledin & Rosemary Barton
Daniel Kovalik In Memory Of Greg Haas
Nicholas Kowalski
Alicia Kozel
Leslie Krafft
Elaine Kramer
Michael Kroeger
Lerae Kroon
Renee Krynock
Anne Marie & Michael Kuchera
Leonard Kuchnicki
Carole Kunkle-Miller
Robin, Jim, and Jenny Langenhahn In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Carrie Leana
Phillip Legge
Stanley & Nancy Lehman
Elsa Limbach
Jennifer Lin
Veronica Looper
Matthew & Kate Louik
Kim Lucas
Nathan & Darcee Lyons In Honor of the Birth Of "Doesn't Have Red Hair"
Said Emily
Paul Lyons
Brian Magee
Karen Manne
LeeAnn Marhevsky
Michelle Markowitz
Sierra Martello, Midwives at Magee
Carrie Martin In Honor Of Rebecca Mundok
Rebekah Martinez
Jess Mason
Juegen & Rachel Mauer
Tom & Barbara Mccarthy
Emily McGahey
Robert & Julia McGahey
Amie McGuigan
Emily McIntire
Denise McMorrow
Amanda McPherson Shafton In Honor Of Emily McGahey
Kathleen & Erin Meade
Madeline Meadows
Lisa Mears
Aaron Meyer
Joanna Milholland
Alexis Miller
Eileen Minnock & Mark Prybyl
Nancy Moniger In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Tom Morrison In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Daniel Murphy In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Cally Myhrum Watts
Lauren & Layton Narbey
Roger Narlee In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Nancy Niemczyk & Myron Arnowitt
Denise & Robert O'Connor
Sean Oestreicher
Ann & Thomas Ogoreuc
Ben Oliverio In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
John K. Orndorff Jr.
Brian Orr In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Garrett Orr In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Jim & Sonya Orr In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Nicole Oshurak
Sebastian Paleato
Ana Luisa Palminha
Christine Patti
Diane Patton
PayPal Giving Fund
Brittany Perrotte
Susan Peterson
Katie Phillips
Kathryn Philson
Matthew Pickerel
Emily Pierson-Brown
Terry and Karen Marie Platts
Laura & Jerome Pottmeyer In Honor Of Christina Harbaugh
Joni Rabinowitz & John Haer
Adriana Ramirez-Welch
Catherine Raphael
Edith Raphael
Lauren Rauscher & Kerrie Kauer

Lynne Reder In Honor Of Carol Washburn
Matthew Reeves
Kyla Reighard
Ellen B. Rest In Honor Of Nancy Eligator
Gregory Ringeling In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Camila Rivera-Tinsley
Jacqueline Rizzo
Lauren Rocchio
Mary Ann Rose
Barbara Roth, March of Dimes
Laura Runnels
Steven Ruperto
Janet & Arthur Ruprecht
Brendan Rusbatch
Shirley Rust
Judith Ruskowski & Ken Regal
Sarah Sanders In Memory Of Tee Bosco
Rebecca Schenck
Alicia Schisler
Norma Schmidt
Sarah Scow
Martin & Janet Seltman
Evy Severino
Ali Shapiro
Sasha Shapiro
Megan & George Shaw
Alexis Sheehan
Jada Shirriel
Nikki Sich
Renee Smietanowski In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Lex Smith
Caroline Snyder
Jamie & Aaron Solak
Britt Solomon
Southwest PA AHEC, Inc.
Square Cafe
Sarah & Matthew Starr
Lorraine Starsky In Memory Of Helen Sockaci
Lisa & Thad Stauffer
Robert Stein In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Andrea & Robert Stephan
Brandie Stewart
Talia Stol
Helen Sutton In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Denise Swartz
Elizabeth Taylor
Betsy & Thomas Teti
The The Sampson Foundation
Ronald & Lucinda Thomas
Julie Trachta
Matthew & Julie Tremaine
Two Frays Brewery
Demia Tyler
Patricia Ulbrich
Helen Victorelli
Victoria Victorelli In Honor of the Birth Of Luca Victorelli
Erin & Marcin Waclawski In Honor of the Birth Of Nadia Caleb
Diann Wall-Wilson In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr

Elizabeth Warden
Johanna Weller-Fahy
Beth & George Whitenight
Wanda Wilson & Patrick Hughes In Honor Of Julia Kathleen Hughes
Mary and Duffy Winek In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Bridgit Wolf
Kathleen Woodward In Memory Of Mary Patricia Orr
Ya Momz House
Michael Young
Rachel Zadnik
Christina & David Zaremby
Janis Zentner
Robin Ziegler
Katy Zorich
Ronnie Cook Zuhlke

SOIREE IN THE STRIP SPONSORS

IMPACT SPONSORS

Nancy Bernstein & Robert Schoen



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPONSOR



Ebe (Eleanor B.) Emmons

WELLNESS WALK-IN FRIDAYS SPONSORS

Janice Anderson & Pat Downey
Lindsay & Christian Cashman
LAR Consulting, LLC

EDUCATE & INSPIRE SPONSORS

Byham Charitable Foundation
Verna Corey, ScD
Dr. Daniel Edelstone & Dodi Walker Gross
Dinnie Goldring
Allegheny Reproductive Health Center
Jewish Healthcare Foundation
PITT OHIO
ReedSmith
St. Clair Health

VENUE SPONSORS

The Original Pittsburgh Winery

CLIENT CARE SPONSORS

Adagio Health
Highmark
March of Dimes
Amber & Justin McCann
Pittsburgh Estate Law
Quest Diagnostics
Cathy Raphael
Lynne Reder
Judy Ruskowski & Ken Regal
Betsy & Tom Teti
University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing

FRIENDS

Alpha Scanlon LLC
Evergreen Facility Services
Masters of Maternity
Mon Aimee Chocolat
Nora & Arnie Peace
Lynne Reder
RHRS Accountants & Consultants
Rothschild Doyno Collaborative
UPMC Rehabilitation Institute

MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

AEO Foundation
Dollar Bank Foundation
Duquesne Light
Give Lively Foundation
Google
Progressive Insurance Foundation
University of Pennsylvania

SPECIAL THANKS

STAFF

Carmen Alexander
Ashley Antonucci, BSN, RN
Tahel Axel, RN
Jul Bibro-Ruch, LCSW, CYT, PMH-C
Erica Biesinger
Dana Bloomberg, MSN, CRNP
Cheryl Bradshaw, BSN, RN, IBCLC
Leigh McGowan, MSN, CRNP
Danielle Call
Tawniece Craighead
Christine Croce, BSN, RN
Aya Eliza-Christie, MSN, CNM
Emily Fear
Shannon Gerst, BSN, RN
Nia Graziano, MSN, CNM
Christine Haas
Jessie Holmquist, DNP, CNM
Rhonda Jordan
Jenny Kalinowski
Lily Mangiapane, BSN, RN
Emily McGahey, DM, MSN, CNM, FACNM
Simone Peterson, BSN, RN, IBCLC
Katie Phillips
Brittany Pickerel, BSN, RN
Theresa Schmidt, MSN, CNM
Haru Shimizu, MSN, CNM
Alaina Smith, BSN, RN, IBCLC
Kit Stookey
Annetra Taylor, MSN, CNM
Shannon Williams, RN, CLC
Anastasia Woods, MPH, MSN, CNM
Makena Zimmerman

BOARD

Lindsay Cashman, MS, President
Jenn Van Dam, Vice President
Melanie Delp, Treasurer
Katy Zorich, Secretary
Yazmin Bennett-Kelly
Andra Finnegan
Melanie Gay
Karl Gibson, MHA

Renae Green, IBCLC
Max Louik, Esq
Nicole Oshurak
Brittany Perrotte
Alicia Schisler
Laura Runnels, MPH

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Janice Anderson, MD
Christine Andrews, MD
Jessica Brown
Jennifer Cox-Siegel
Ebe Emmons
Kathy Evans Palmisano
Chris Kobus
Carrie Leana, PhD
Amber McCann
Eileen Minnock, CNM
Nora Peace, Esq
Cathy Raphael
Lauren Rauscher, PhD
Marie Rivera-Johnson, Esq
Jason Roth
Judy Ruskowski
Cecile Springer
Lisa Stauffer, Esq
Elizabeth Stifel, MD
Betsy Teti
Demia Tyler, MPH, CLC, CD (DONA), LCCE

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mary Cooper, MD, Medical Director
Ann McCarthy, MSN, CNM, Midwife Emeritus
Emily McGahey, DM, MSN, FACNM, Clinical Director
Leigh McGowan, MSN, CRNP
Lauren Narbey, MSN, CNM
Nancy Niemczyk, PhD, CNM, Midwife Emeritus
Kara Peterson, MSN, CNM, Midwife Emeritus
Heidi Swanson, MD

ACCREDITATION, LICENSURE, AND MEMBERSHIPS

Licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health
Accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Birth Centers
Member, American Association of Birth Centers
Member, Greater Pittsburgh Nonprofit Partnership
Member, Strip District Neighbors
Professional Memberships for the American College of Nurse Midwives

PARTNERSHIPS

Adagio Health
AHN West Penn and Jefferson Hospitals
Healthy Start, Inc.
UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital





Brittany Pickerel with her husband and baby Lucy being cared for by fellow Midwife Center nurse, Alaina Smith, BSN, RN, IBCLC.

Brittany Pickerel (TMC Nurse) *Shares Her Birth Story*

“A few of the midwives stopped in to meet Lucy (Emily, Annetra, Jessie). Our postpartum stay was quiet and relaxed. Lucy did a great job figuring out breastfeeding and we just studied her little face and got a little rest before heading home...

Throughout two pregnancies, births, and postpartum I have received care at The Midwife Center. I have felt so cared for, respected, empowered, and heard throughout all of these experiences. I have so much appreciation for the teams that have helped bring my babies into the world safely. I am forever grateful that I found this special place and that I now get to work here as well.”

Brittany Pickerel, BSN, RN, TMC Client

Read the full story at midwifecenter.org.

the
**midwife
center**

2831 Penn Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15222
midwifecenter.org
412.321.6880