

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

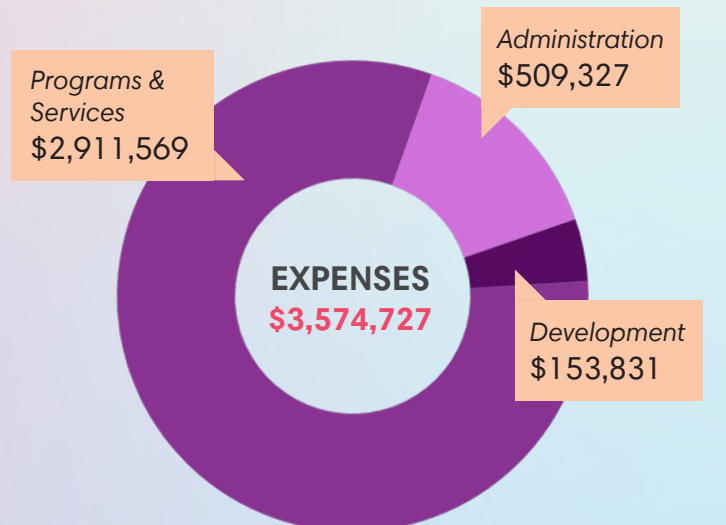
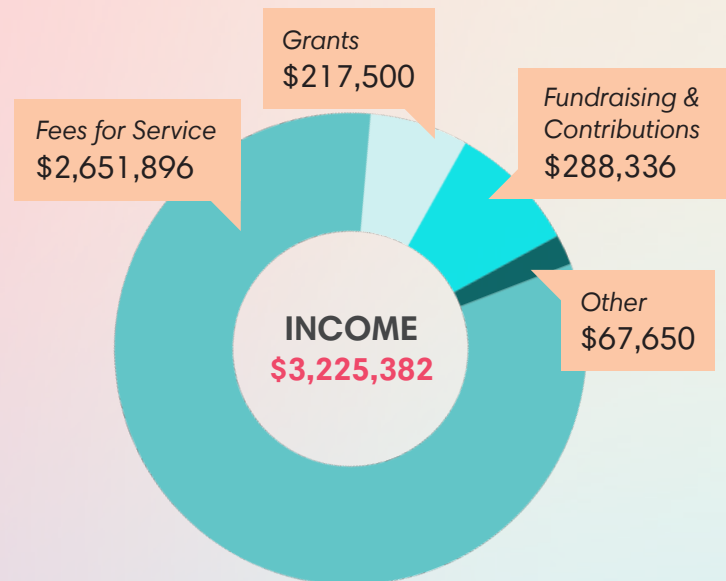
CELEBRATING THE MIDWIFE CENTER'S TEAM

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.

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

Brittany Pickerel, BSN, RN, TMC Client

Read the full story at midwifecenter.org.

the
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center**

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