



# The Future is Bright



FALL 2024

## Spotlight on: Philadelphia Midwife Collective



Philadelphia Midwife Collective (PMC) is an independent midwifery practice providing reproductive health services in NW Philadelphia with a focus on equity and social justice. PMC's community of practitioners hold a shared mission: to provide accessible reproductive and well-person care while nurturing a space for evidence-based, full-spectrum support throughout the reproductive lifespan.

## Congratulations to our 2024 Food Insecurity Cycle grantees!

We are proud to partner with Double Trellis Food Initiative, Northwest Mutual Aid Collective, and Small Things, Inc. in the ongoing effort to fight hunger in NW Philadelphia.



Double Trellis Food Initiative



Northwest Mutual Aid Collective



Small Things, Inc

## A Letter From Our Executive Director

Happy autumn!

It feels like we barely had summer because it went so quickly, but I do appreciate the return of cooler weather. What do you enjoy most about this season?

As you read on, I am sure you will notice that a lot has happened since we last wrote. Please join us in congratulating the 2024 Messori Nursing Education Award winner – Britney Adgate! I'm sure you have already noticed our Hunger & Food Insecurity grant recipients list on the cover page. If you'd like to learn more, please feel free to reach out to us or directly to them. We are always happy to share more!

Our grantee highlight is Philadelphia Midwife Collective. As you will notice, they are located here in NW Philadelphia and are working diligently to provide care that is difficult for many to access due to lack of services in our area. Personalized maternal care is very important in Philadelphia as our infant mortality rate is almost 40% higher than the national rate\* – affecting birthing people of color at higher rates than white.

THANK YOU! Thank you so much for your care, gifts, and support of our community.



\*Data shared is from CHOP blog post: Philadelphia's Persistently High Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates Require a Response, January 25, 2024



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## Supporting Older Adults: A Conversation for Nonprofit Agencies

Over the summer, Foundation for Health Equity joined forces with The Sarah Ralston Foundation to host 'Supporting Older Adults: A Conversation for Nonprofit Agencies'. This event provided a fantastic opportunity for our partners who serve older adults to meet, network, and brainstorm ways to collaborate. By fostering collaboration and sharing resources, we strengthen our collective efforts and amplify our impact. Together, we are making significant strides in ensuring that older adults in our community receive the care and support they deserve.

We look forward to continuing these important discussions and working together to create a brighter future for our aging population!



Credit: Claire Lynch, Communications Manager, The Sarah Ralston Foundation

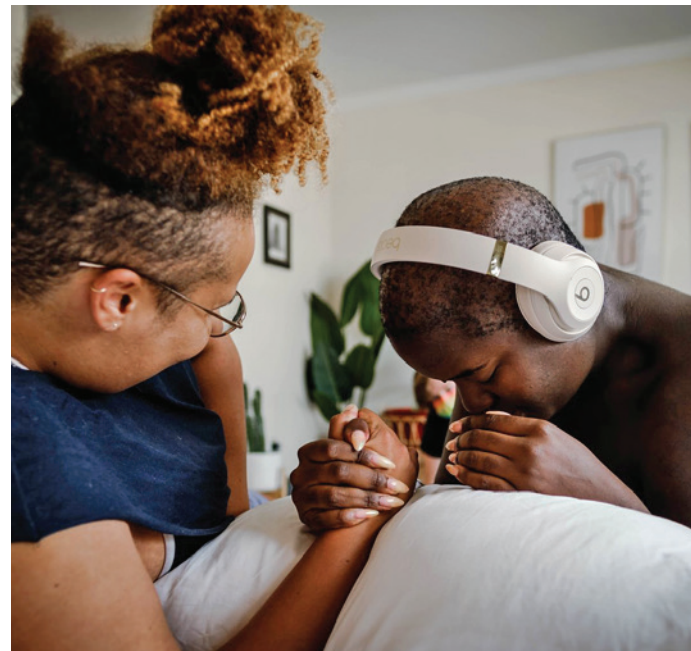




# Bringing Equity and Social Justice to Reproductive Health Services in NW Philadelphia

By Stephanie Brown, IBCLC, (they /them)  
Executive Director, Philadelphia Midwife Collective

Philadelphia Midwife Collective (PMC) is an established, independent, non-profit midwifery practice, born in 2017 and offering community-based care in the home and hospital settings. Based in Northwest Philadelphia, PMC also partners with the Jefferson-Einstein Healthcare Network and is proud to have privileges at its local hospitals in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. PMC is committed to the intentional provision of care within a collective framework, and it partners with local practitioners and specialists to provide comprehensive reproductive health care throughout the lifespan, including gynecologic care, birth services, postpartum and infant feeding support, menopausal care, family planning, and well-person primary care. PMC was founded on the principles of safety, accessibility, and affirmation using the midwifery model of care. PMC is committed to reproductive justice, sexual health and birth options, and serving systemically marginalized communities including people of color, LGBTQIA+ clients, and low-income individuals who might otherwise receive bias care within larger medical systems.



Today, PMC is a community of practitioners with a shared mission: to provide accessible reproductive and well-person care while nurturing a space for evidence-based, full-spectrum support throughout the reproductive lifespan.

PMC plans on expanding access to safe out of hospital birth options by opening a freestanding birth center in Northwest Philadelphia in 2025. As of now and in contrast to most US metropolitan cities, Philadelphia has only five hospital maternity units and no birth center options within city limits. Birth centers function under the evidence-based assumption that for low-risk pregnant people, birth is not typically a medical event and, in most cases, does not require hospitalization; they are proven to be a safe and cost-effective model of care. PMC's vision is to serve the community, combat the current maternal morbidity and mortality rates, and help parents, babies and families thrive.

## 2024 Elissa Messori Jacobsen Nursing Award

Foundation for Health Equity and Chestnut Hill Hospital gathered in June to celebrate the 2024 recipient of the Elissa Messori Jacobsen Nursing Award – **Britney Adgate!**

The Elissa Messori Jacobsen Nursing Award Fund was established by Dr. and Mrs. Divo Messori to celebrate the life of their daughter. Elissa, a nurse on the 3rd floor, and Dr. Divo Messori, a surgeon, were both dedicated and beloved staff at Chestnut Hill Hospital. Elissa died in 2001 after battling breast cancer.

"Doing this, helping others, means something and helps to get through the loss," said Dr. Messori at the first Nursing Awards Presentation on May 8, 2002. "It's a measure of comfort. There is pleasure in giving." Continued gratitude to Dr. Messori for his unwavering support and commitment to the nursing profession, and continued gratitude to all nurses for the critical work you do!

