HEALTHY BEGINNINGS, HOPEFUL FUTURES

Campaign to *Relocate and Expand* Our Family Health and Birth Center
“Community of Hope was supportive during my pregnancy. Even now, my girls receive their primary care at the Family Health and Birth Center. It’s such a needed and empowering feeling to be at a center with providers who understand and genuinely care about the women and families they serve.”

Mercedez Milling-Robinson
Community of Hope, Family Health and Birth Center Mom (pictured below with her family)
Giving birth is an incredibly empowering experience for a woman and a transformative moment for both parents and the whole family. And, yet, in the District, what should be the happiest day can end unexpectedly.

**MOTHERS AND BABIES IN DC ARE FACING A CRISIS**

The infant mortality rate in DC is higher than the national average, and many women are facing barriers to receiving important prenatal care, putting mothers and babies at risk.

Babies born to black mothers in DC are particularly at risk—five times more likely to die in infancy than the babies of white mothers. The risk of dying for black mothers who are pregnant is higher than for white women.

Across our city, our neighbors in under-resourced communities experience inequities in their health outcomes—with higher rates of disease, trauma, depression, and even death.

**WE CAN DO BETTER**

The good news is we know what works to help mothers and babies and to see our neighbors’ health improve. At Community of Hope (COH), we are taking action to ensure that mothers, babies, and the whole family stay healthy.

We envision a city where everyone has access to resources for good health and a hope-filled future. Our three health centers provide critical medical, dental, and emotional wellness services and other supports to the most under-resourced neighborhoods in the city. Wrapped in comprehensive health care, families will have the opportunity they deserve to thrive.

**OUR FAMILY HEALTH BIRTH CENTER**

For nearly two decades, the Family Health and Birth Center (FHBC), located in Ward 5, has provided high-quality women’s and children’s health services. In 2011, COH merged with FHBC and expanded to serve the whole family with primary care and emotional wellness services.

FHBC is the only free-standing birth center in DC and currently the only facility on the entire eastern half of the city where a mother may give birth to her baby. No hospitals offer labor and delivery services to women east of Capitol Street.

At FHBC, midwives wrap mothers with care, during and after their pregnancy. Midwives accompany families during that most intimate and transformative experience of birth. Not only do patients love working with midwives but midwifery care has been proven to be an effective means of improving birth outcomes for under-resourced women.

“"As a midwife, I see the value of our services to women and their babies. Many of our patients have not previously had access to this type of relationship-based care and support. At Community of Hope we ensure that every family, regardless of their circumstances has a healthy pregnancy, positive birth experience, and access to all the support they need.”

Ebony Marcelle
Director of Midwifery at Community of Hope

**A NEW HEALTHY FUTURE FOR FAMILIES IS COMING**

With the pending sale of our current, leased property, we began a thoughtful search for a new location. This move allows us to continue to meet the needs of families in Ward 5 and to expand a health center with high demand and little space. We have purchased a building just 1.5 miles away from our current FHBC.

We need your help to expand our important services. Your gift will help us pay for the purchase, renovation, furnishings, and start-up activities for our new FHBC. With your support, we will be able to provide continuity of care for thousands of patients, including mothers and babies, and to help more struggling families receive the services they need to lead healthy lives.
Rachel Curry knew she made the right decision when she decided to have a natural birth at Community of Hope’s Family Health and Birth Center. “I told myself, I was going to give Community of Hope a try, and sure enough, it was the best experience.” Rachel, DC resident and now a mother to a beautiful baby boy, transferred to Community of Hope from another health practice in 2019. It was important to Rachel that her medical team listen to her. “I wanted to be advocated for. And I felt like if I stayed with any other hospital in the area, I was just going to be another number.” When Rachel came to FHBC, she wasn’t just a number and not only received quality, supportive care but had a natural birth and delivered a healthy baby that increased her confidence and left her empowered to do it again someday. “Even to this day, I’m like ‘wow!’ I really can’t put my birthing experience into words. I felt invincible. And even still to this day, I still do. I can do anything.”
WARD 5 NEEDS AN EXPANDED FAMILY HEALTH AND BIRTH CENTER

While there has been a lot of gentrification in Ward 5, significant disparities in health outcomes continue.

Out of DC’s eight Wards, **WARD 5 HAS THE 3RD LOWEST LIFE EXPECTANCY RATE**—76.4 years—and the 3rd highest rate for each of the top four causes of death in the District (heart disease, cancer, stroke, and accidents).

**HALF OF WARD 5 RESIDENTS** are enrolled in Medicaid, and only a little more than half of Medicaid recipients are accessing primary care.

**ABOUT 1 IN 5 CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY.**

Our Family Health and Birth Center is meeting critical needs on the eastern half of the city as well as in Ward 5, and our services are thriving.

*This is higher than the US rate of 5.8 deaths per 1,000 live births.*
COMMUNITY OF HOPE HAS BEEN SERVING MOTHERS, BABIES, AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR 40 YEARS.
At Community of Hope, our mission is to provide health care services to those who need it most.

For 40 years, Community of Hope has met the housing and healthcare needs of families in the most under-resourced communities in the District of Columbia. We now provide a range of services that support healthy families across the District. Throughout our history, we have focused our growth where the need is greatest.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center in DC, we operate three health centers, providing medical, dental, and behavioral health services, and a satellite resource site that provides emotional wellness services and other supports for families. Each service site focuses on the healthcare needs of under-resourced and medically underserved populations and provides compassionate, culturally sensitive care. Community of Hope serves over 13,000 patients a year.

COH has been serving mothers and babies around the District for decades. Our robust maternal and child health programs ensure that women, especially black women, receive services that ensure they are listened to and supported in a way that counters the reality where black mothers and babies are more likely to die than their white counterparts.

WE HAVE BEEN GROWING TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY

Community of Hope has a proven track record of developing effective programs and establishing new service sites. Since our founding in 1980 we have thoughtfully and strategically grown from a single building in Columbia Heights to an organization that now operates nine facilities. Since 2011, we have demonstrated our capacity to grow by expanding our programs and managing three successful capital campaigns, allowing us to respond directly to the needs of the communities we serve.

Strong leadership has been the key to this growth. Kelly Sweeney McShane has served as President & CEO of Community of Hope (COH) since 2001, and under her leadership, we have grown from a budget of $1.8 million to one of over $30 million, allowing the organization to serve thousands more women, men, and children in DC.

Organizationally, Community of Hope continues to be recognized for our outcomes. We have been recognized multiple times as a Washington Post Top Workplace. We have received recognition annually for our health outcomes from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and received an award from the National Alliance to End Homelessness for Excellence in Ending Family Homelessness in 2018.

WHAT FHBC MEANS TO THE COMMUNITY

FHBC is a safe, caring place for women and children. FHBC was initially established in 2000 as an independent nonprofit with a focus on a birth center, midwifery care, and services for women and children. Community of Hope assumed operations of FHBC in 2011. Since that time, we have significantly increased the amount of primary care provided, built up the midwifery program, strengthened the birth center component, and added integrated behavioral health services. Currently, FHBC offers a unique mixture of maternal-child health and additional health services for everyone.

“FHBC is a special place. I regularly hear from patients what FHBC means to them. Mothers who have given birth love their midwives and consider them part of the family. They particularly like that they can continue to receive care for themselves, their children, and their family members. FHBC has played an important role in the community for over two decades and we want to make sure it’s around for decades more.”

Kelly Sweeney McShane
Community of Hope President and CEO
A CRITICAL LIFELINE FOR FAMILIES IN THE DISTRICT.

Since FHBC became part of COH in 2011, nearly 11,400 patients have been seen.

In 2019, FHBC provided 13,376 primary medical care visits and 1,764 behavioral health visits, along with other supports such as prenatal care navigation and lactation counseling.

In 2019, our compassionate midwives delivered 191 babies at the two locations our patients can choose—our birth center or at Washington Hospital Center.

Approximately 91% of FHBC patients are people of color and 75% have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level.

SAMIYAH’S STORY

Samiyah Lee settled in DC over a decade ago after moving from New York. For Samiyah, it had always been a desire of hers to become a mother – she couldn’t imagine life any other way. But, for a while, Samiyah struggled to get pregnant, leading her and her partner to seek an infertility specialist. “The idea of not being a mother is the most crippling, and heartbreaking thing I ever had to face.” The doctors discovered a large fibroid was the reason. Three months after getting the fibroid removed came the surprising shock. “I’m pregnant! It was surreal and very real at the same time. I felt disbelief, excitement and pure happiness.” It was important to Samiyah that she deliver her baby in, “the most natural environment possible,” and she found exactly what she was looking for at the Family Health and Birth Center. “When I went to Community of Hope, I fell in love with the soul there. When you see someone who is a reflection of you, it’s a different aura and a different experience. I felt so at home.” With the support from her midwife, doula and family, Samiyah was able to give birth to a healthy baby boy.

“For Community of Hope to be in the place where it is, providing the care that they do – shows moms that they are cared about, shows them that they are important and shows them that they deserve to be treated appropriately with the right medical care.”

Samiyah Lee
Community of Hope, Family Health and Birth Center Mom
(pictured to the left with her son)
AT THE FAMILY HEALTH AND BIRTH CENTER, WE OFFER...

**PRIMARY CARE**
for the whole family, including preventative care, chronic disease management, patient support services, insurance enrollment, and more.

**CENTERING PREGNANCY**
an evidence-based group prenatal care program that combines education by a midwife with support from other women who are expecting their babies at the same time.

**SUPPORT FOR EMOTIONAL WELLNESS**, including screenings for depression, trauma, and anxiety; connection to therapy; and access to psychiatry.

**MIDWIFERY CARE**, particularly tailored to the needs of women of color.

**ACCESS TO CARE COORDINATION**
to ensure every mom and baby has the support that they need to succeed.

**A HOME-VISITING PROGRAM** to provide support to families with young children where the need it, at home.

**LABOR AND DELIVERY SUPPORT**
provided by experienced midwives and doulas.

**ACCESS TO BREASTFEEDING EDUCATION** before pregnancy and one-on-one support after delivery.

**PEDIATRIC CARE**
for newborns, children, and adolescents.
Located in the Langdon neighborhood of the District, the new location will give us room to significantly expand. We will renovate and expand an existing 14,500-square-foot, two-story-brick building. We plan to add a third floor. Also, available is an asphalt parking lot with approximately 50 parking spaces. The final size will be over 20,000 square feet, a significant growth from our current 8,800 square feet.

Community of Hope has made it a strategic priority for the next three years to expand our efforts to address inequities in maternal and child health outcomes. A new home for FHBC will allow us to do that, as well as address the health needs of the whole family. At the new facility, we plan to expand our maternal and child health, primary care, and emotional wellness services. We will upgrade our birth center and are exploring additional services on site. **Our goal is to open this new home in early 2022.**

"As a board member and patient, I couldn’t be more proud and satisfied with what Community of Hope has already accomplished at FHBC. I had my two daughters at the birth center, and that experience was one of the most empowering moments of my life. As a young African American woman I am filled with joy that there’s a place my whole family can come to for health care, health classes, and a list of life resources. It makes my heart whole knowing we can maintain and expand these important services to other families in my community. Although there’s quality in the health care its the FAMILY that keeps me coming back.”

Heather Wise
COH board member and patient

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Community of Hope needs your support to ensure that we can build a new home for FHBC and provide continuity of care for our patients for years to come. We ask for your support to cover costs associated with purchasing the property, the renovation, the equipment, furnishings and start-up activities.

With your help, COH can strengthen our long-term commitment to the women, men and children who have come to rely on FHBC. This campaign will make it possible for COH to continue providing high-quality care to medically underserved residents in Ward 5, as well as other under-resourced community members. You can help us turn this moment into an opportunity to move forward and improve our care for those who need us most.
Family Health and Birth Center serves the needs of women, children, and whole families. We need your help to ensure the future of FHBC and healthy families for decades to come.

WE CAN DO BETTER FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES IN THE DISTRICT.
WITH YOUR SUPPORT, WE WILL DO BETTER.

Your gift will provide the critical capital needed for Community of Hope to complete renovations, buy equipment, begin its operations, and be prepared for the anticipated and unanticipated costs associated with the move to a new facility.

Give now to support the Family Health and Birth Center—a vital resource for our community.

With you, we can achieve our goal! And we are almost there! The total project cost is about $20 million.

We are thrilled to have received several generous commitments toward our fundraising goal.

We need you to make a difference. Your contributions and support will bring us closer to our goal of relocating and expanding our Family Health and Birth Center.

To contribute, visit www.communityofhopedc.org or call 202.407.7780.
VISION
Everyone in Washington, DC has good health, a stable home, family-sustaining income and a hope-filled future.

MISSION
Community of Hope works to improve health and end family homelessness to make Washington, DC more equitable.