



# 2023 Annual Report

Birthing With Dignity

# To the MCC community,

Reflecting on the past year, I am proud of Maternity Care Coalition's leadership and advocacy on maternal health coalitions, our continued direct service expansion, and the advancement of our commitment to pay equity for our staff.

## This past year was transformative for MCC.

- ✓ MCC is now in the State of Delaware! Our newest MOMobile® program provides doula and parenting support and education to pregnant and parenting people within the Delaware Department of Corrections. We also support their children ages 0 – 3, and continue services in the community after a parent returns home.
- ✓ MCC added economic security to our policy agenda for prenatal to age three. Our focus is to establish a universal paid family and medical leave program in Pennsylvania.
- ✓ MCC's revenues grew from \$14.5MM to \$18.6MM.

Our investments in people and infrastructure are paying off. This past year, we attracted more new funders and strengthened existing relationships. Our work is uniquely community-centered and community-driven. Since 1980, we have supported over 150,000 families through programs and services rooted in the expressed needs of people with lived experience.

Throughout this report, we shine a light on one of our key impact areas—**'birthing with dignity.'** We will explore what it means and what it will take to become **a reality for every birthing person.**

Giving birth can be both challenging and beautiful for those who choose it. When a baby is born, a parent experiences their own growth and change. When parents birth with dignity, they are given the choice to actively participate in defining their own birth experience. When moms and parents are healthy, the positive impact reverberates to improve the overall health of a community.

Our impact illustrated in this year's report highlights a bright future for the organization and the myriad opportunities to partner with stakeholders, like you, to ensure families can birth with dignity, parent with autonomy, and raise babies who are healthy, growing, and thriving.

Looking ahead and building on our momentum, we are kicking off a comprehensive strategic planning process with the goal of exploring avenues for sustainable growth and greater impact. We embark on this process with eyes open to the intersecting challenges facing our communities in areas related to economic security, housing, community violence, and more.

Each day as a leader in this work, and as a mother, I learn and see how what we do at MCC is personal, inspiring, and transformational. I am honored to share our successes, I thank you for your partnership, and I look ahead to how we will grow into our future, with your support.

Warm regards,



Marianne A. Fray  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Maternity Care Coalition



# Agency-Wide Outcomes

**4,967**

families served

**89%**

of clients practiced safe sleep by placing their babies to sleep on their backs (compared to 65% of Pennsylvania parents)

**86%**

of clients initiated chest/breastfeeding (compared to 66.51% of PA WIC participants)

## Financial Reporting

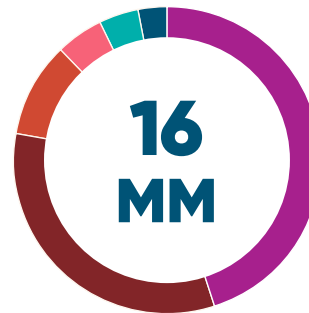
*Note: Numbers are before final audit and GAAP adjustments which will exclude in-kind.*

### 2023 Total Revenue:



- 62%** Government Grants
- 25%** Foundations
- 5%** Healthcare
- 5%** In-Kind
- 2%** Individuals
- 1%** Corporate, Community, and Other Funds

### 2023 Total Expenses:



- 45%** MOMobile®
- 33%** Early Head Start
- 10%** Management and General
- 5%** Policy and Advocacy, Research and Evaluation
- 4%** Fundraising
- 3%** Cribs for Kids

All families are deserving of a positive birthing experience. Providing resources from the start increases the chances of a successful, positive experience. Life-long outcomes are impacted by the autonomy provided to the birthing parent. Support is required at

Visit our website to learn more about MCC's impact.

[www.maternitycarecoalition.org](http://www.maternitycarecoalition.org)



every step of the way and should be led by the family. Trust, safety needs continue after birth itself and knowledge fuels positive outcomes. Communities flourish when supported by legislation. Individual efforts must be supported by collective action for

# Clare's Story

Clare Hughes, MCC's Senior Director of Administrative Operations, found MCC shortly after giving birth to her first child. After experiencing a challenging birth and difficult transition back to work, she felt called to provide support for others during the same time in their lives.

Direct service staff are the beating heart of our organization, and they are powered by administrative staff who are equally passionate in their support of MCC's mission. Clare and her team make sure the direct service staff have everything they need to carry out their work.

For Clare, birthing with dignity begins with recognizing the duality of birth. It is primal and "at the same time incredibly vulnerable and incredibly powerful."

**To honor this duality, birthing people must be trusted, listened to, and have their experiences validated by everyone on their birth team.**

Clare's own birth stories highlight this poignantly. During her first labor and delivery, she felt dismissed and talked down to by providers who put more faith in the machines attached to her than in her voice.

Thankfully, she was able to flip the script with her second birth. Ultimately, Clare needed to have a scheduled c-section, but she felt heard and cared for during the whole procedure. **This gave her the sense of autonomy and ownership that was lacking during her first birth.**

As a white woman, Clare is cognizant of her privilege, especially in birthing spaces where women of color, and especially Black women, often face dangerous mistreatment and worse health outcomes.

Part of her "why" for working at MCC is knowing that if she struggled during her labor, there are others who are forced to overcome even more obstacles to birth with dignity. It is important to her to dedicate her talents and time to help overcome those inequities.

As she tells her children, **"Mommy helps the people who help the parents take care of the babies."**





The Community Engagement Services team hosted and attended a total of

**315 resource fairs  
in our service area.**



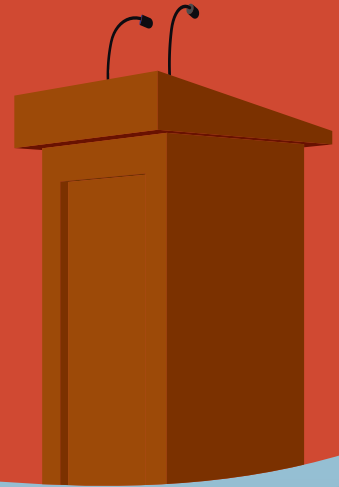
"I started with MCC when I was pregnant with my now two-year-old and that was during the middle of the pandemic. I'm from thousands of miles away, I have no family to rely on, and had a very difficult pregnancy and birth. I had postpartum depression...I really think that without the support of MCC, I wouldn't have survived. They provided us with a lot of resources, information, and, most importantly, a lot of friendships and emotional support.

**So, I'm forever grateful for MCC."**

**—Parent receiving MCC services**

# Policy and Advocacy

The U.S. is the only high-wealth country without a national paid leave program. Four of the six states that border Pennsylvania have enacted or implemented statewide paid family and medical leave programs, meaning Pennsylvania is behind in our ability to support parents in birthing with dignity and caring for their growing families. Last year, in response to an expanding body of research on the impact of economic security on birth outcomes, MCC added prenatal to three economic security to our policy agenda. We are active members of the Family Care Act Campaign where **we advocate along with our partners to establish a universal paid family and medical leave program in Pennsylvania — and we will win!**



"MCC Advocates have supported me in making decisions that were right for me and my family during my pregnancy and birth **by helping me speak up for myself.**

An MCC Advocate helped me feel safe, supported, and respected during my pregnancy and birth **by always being by my side."**

-Regina



# Mahalia's Story

Mahalia Sealy, the Training Coordinator for MCC's Community Doula and Lactation programs, beams with pride when talking about the birth of her youngest child. She has three children and had three healthy pregnancies and vaginal deliveries, but it is her third birth experience that had the biggest impact. When reflecting on what it means to birth with dignity, it is this labor and delivery that comes to mind.

When Shema'Yah was born, Mahalia had a dream support team that honored her wishes and helped her feel confident. This included a midwife and an MCC doula. Throughout her pregnancy, labor, and delivery, Mahalia felt in control of her body and knew her team had her back during her most vulnerable moments. Speaking specifically about her midwife, **Mahalia says, "She was really so nourishing. She gave me everything I needed to feel equipped and knowledgeable and to make informed decisions. Knowing the pros and cons of every choice helped me feel empowered."**

Mahalia first became involved with MCC when she attended a doula training in 2021. She was pregnant with Shema'Yah during the training and says "taking the training was transformative. I gained so much information. It helped boost my confidence in myself and contributed to me being able to birth with dignity."

She believes one of the ways we can ensure that all people are given the opportunity to birth with dignity is by educating families about their options and choices. When it comes to birth, Mahalia's mantra is "knowledge is power."

That is what makes MCC's Community Doula training so impactful. The doulas receive comprehensive training that is trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, and emphasizes a family-led approach. Then, the doulas go out in their communities to educate and empower the families they work with.

During her own training, Mahalia was reminded that,

**"I do have a voice,  
and my opinions and  
experiences matter."**

As the Training Coordinator, she finds pride in instilling this confidence in others.



