We are proud to announce FAM’s 2017 Birth Trust Grantees:

**HEALTH EQUITY PROJECTS: Total Awards $18,300**
- Ancient Song Doula Services, The Midwifery Assistant Program
- California Association of Midwives, Expanding the Midwifery Model of Care in Communities of Color
- Commonsense Childbirth, Inc., Quiero Entender (“I Want to Understand”)
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**PUBLIC POLICY PROJECTS: Total Awards $8,000**
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- MANA, DOR, Accelerating Dissemination of MANA Stats
- MANA, DOR, What Affects Experience and Outcomes of Transfer from Home to Hospital?

Project abstracts available at www.formidwifery.org/projects-funded/

$13,245 raised in FAM’s first-ever crowdfund campaign: “Giving Voice to Birth Equity in the USA”

FAM is a 501c(3) non-profit organization.

FAM • P.O. Box 744, Harriman, NY 10926-0744 • www.formidwifery.org
From the Past President

In June my term as president ended. It has been a great honor to work together with our amazing grantees, generous donors, wonderful board, and two dynamic executive directors. The four years I served as president were a time of change for FAM: saying goodbye to several longtime board members and our first ED, improving infrastructure, especially in the realm of donor communication; and launching our new website.

Every year it has been a great joy to give out grant money to so many worthy projects, and at the same time a frustration not to be able to fully fund many important projects with the potential to enhance our mission. It is a constant goal of FAM to increase our donor base and annual grantmaking.

As the end of my term approached, we decided to search out an experienced midwifery leader to serve as my interim president. I can speak for the entire board when I say we were absolutely thrilled when our first choice, Geradine Simkins, accepted our proposal. Many of you know Geradine from her time as MANA board member, president, and executive director. Whatever you may not board member Geradine is also one of the founding mothers of FAM. She comes to us with a wealth of experience and skills. We have just identified our next president, new board member Emily Anesta, and Gera will be mentoring her to assume the role next spring.

As I wind down my many years with FAM I want to thank each and every person that has been a part of this important foundation. Respectful attentive maternity care continues to be difficult to access in our country, and midwifery is a key component to improving the health and lives of birthing families. I hope you will all stand behind FAM in our goal to increase access to midwifery and spread the word about the impactful work of the FAM grantees.

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I almost retired from my midwifery career of over 40 years. Then FAM’s president approached me with an offer I could not refuse: provide professional development to FAM’s board of directors and support for the executive director; guide strategic planning and implementation to strengthen the core of the organization; and mentor the next generation of FAM leaders so that they feel confident to take the helm (and the founding members can retire).

We have revitalized FAM by creating a new mission, vision, and statement of values. We have designed a new 3–5 year strategic plan. We have launched a beautiful and user-friendly website. We have designed a new Fundraising Campaign and Toolkit called Double FAM’s Reach so that FAM can significantly expand its impact and financial support of midwifery projects in North America. And we will be conducting fundraising activities at the 2017 MANA conference as well as networking.

I look forward to more exciting and productive work with the FAM board members and executive director. The companion piece to having a strong and committed board and staff is strengthening FAM by creating and maintaining strategic alliances. FAM needs more allies and partners in order to ensure our impact and sustainability. Thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way to FAM’s success. And to those who have not yet become allies and partners – there are numerous opportunities for everyday philanthropy, large and small. Please join us! Together we can make midwifery available to every person who wants a midwife!

From the Executive Director

As FAM’s Executive Director I define my role as “bridge maker.” I take the organization’s vision and mission and translate them so that a bridge is created connecting FAM’s internal and external world. The internal world consists of the board of directors, stakeholders, grantees, donors, and volunteers. The external world is you the Birth Trustee, first time donor, potential donor, conference attendee, etc.

As bridge maker, my goal is to build on this year’s accomplishments and ride that wave as far as it will carry FAM. Those accomplishments include the organization’s newly completed strategic planning process. During this uncertain political climate, FAM made a conscious decision to exert itself and step more boldly into its purpose. That decision is evident in FAM’s revised mission, vision, and values statement.

I firmly believe that FAM has a major role to play in midwifery philanthropy and I am staunchly committed to doing my part. In collaboration with the board of directors, I look forward to achieving the following outcomes over the course of my tenure. I will work to:

• [B]e Available for mutually beneficial conversations with existing and potential donors and the community at large.
• Broaden FAM’s reach into vulnerable and low-resource communities that can benefit from access to the midwifery model of care.
• Connect with communities of color that are marginalized and/or facing maternal and child health disparities.
• Increase FAM’s financial footprint as a funder.

Thank you for allowing me to be of service.

What did FAM funding accomplish in 2016?

Brought together leaders of color from states struggling with some of the country’s worst maternal mortality. North Carolina, Oklahoma, Georgia, and Tennessee.
MANA, Division of Access and Equity, Launching the MANA Division of Access and Equity

Produced webinar and public education about “Relative Risk” paper. Created water birth guidelines and media response.
MANA, Increasing Research-Informed Policy and Practice through Social Media and Education

Stories illustrating disparities and impact of provider type and birth setting collected through 2700 surveys in English and Spanish.
Home Birth Summit Consumer Task Force, Giving Voice to Mothers

Data maps that told the story of maternity care access, equity and outcomes across the nation using data on the status of integration of midwives in each state.
Home Birth Summit Research and Data Task Force, Mapping Access to High Quality Birth Care across Birth Settings

A series of events for strategic planning with indigenous community
Changing Women Initiative, Weaving Many Voices for Cultural and Community Wellness

A unified data collection tool (combined MANA, American Association of Birth Centers, American College of Nurse Midwives, and Centering Health Institute), capturing data on approximately 11% of US births for use by clinicians, researchers, clients, and policy makers.
MANA, Maternity Care Data Alliance

New accreditation support program for aspiring midwifery schools.
Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC), Expanding Access to Midwifery School Accreditation through Peer-to-Peer Institutional Mentoring

Leg and strategic support of state organizations resulting in 3 states adopting CPM licensure laws this year: Michigan, South Dakota, and Alabama.
The Big Push for Midwifery Campaign, Progressing the Push Nation

FAM Board of Directors: Emily Anesta, Laurie Foster, Janis Gildin, Vicki Hedley, Justine Hinderliter, Kirsten Kowalski-Lane, Lauren Miller, Priya Morganstern, Geradine Simkins (President)
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Contact us at info@formidwifery.org to discuss donations of securities or including FAM in your estate planning.
Donate to FAM with your Amazon purchases: tiny.cc/FAMsmile

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Become a FAM Birth Trustee with a $20/month donation and you can participate in selecting our next grantees. www.formidwifery.org/donate

Donations also accepted by mail to: FAM, P.O. Box 744, Harriman, NY 10926-0744

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