

2023 Impact Report















A Letter from Our Founder

Dear friends.

For many communities of women, birthing people, families, and maternity care providers, this past year was a trying one. The devastating ripple effects of the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* continue to reverberate across the United States, and the dire impact of the COVID pandemic on pregnant people is underscored by increased maternal mortality rates. It is evident that achieving lasting progress on maternal health remains a global challenge.



As always, it is the resilience, care, and commitment of our grantee partners and so many others that gives us hope and inspires us.

This past year, I took inspiration from these partners to dedicate time reflecting on Every Mother Counts' impact since our founding. As you will read in this report, in 2023 we engaged in a long-overdue strategic planning process. This period of reflection and analysis has helped to reignite the fire that led me to this work; our focus is clear and our path forward is charted.

What is most clear now is that our mission to ensure equitable access to safe and respectful maternity care for all is as relevant as ever, and that Every Mother Counts has played a significant role in elevating this issue and amplifying solutions since 2010. Not only are fewer mothers dying in pregnancy and childbirth, but there is a conversation taking place about maternal health that was absent a decade ago. Stories of preventable maternal deaths and near-misses are making headlines, inspiring policymakers and their legislatures to take action.

So, in this reflective moment, I choose optimism. I am delighted to share some of the highlights of EMC's work and the efforts of our unstoppable grantee partners from the past year with you.

As always, we would not be able to do our work without your dedication and support.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

With gratitude,

Christy Turlington Burns

Ohn Amban

Founder & President, Every Mother Counts

A Year of Impact



Raising Awareness

273,924

people engaged

Learn more



Investing in Solutions

invested in organizations and programs



Learn more





Advocating for Systems Change

advocates mobilized

Learn more



Every Mother Counts' Strategic Plan

In the first half of 2023, EMC worked with a team from Boston Consulting Group on an organizational strategic review and planning process with the goal of maximizing our impact for the near and long term. This exercise had been considered for 2020 to coincide with EMC's 10th anniversary but had to be postponed because of the pandemic. This process resulted in a three-to-five-year strategy for EMC and set out milestones for the next decade to help us achieve the highest impact possible.

Over the course of six months, consultants conducted a landscape analysis of the maternal health space and players, interviewed internal and external stakeholders, and evaluated EMC's comparative strengths.

Coming out of the strategic planning process, EMC formalized our programmatic focus on two core topics: community-based care and workforce development. These focus areas were selected because of their relevance to the communities in which we work, both in the U.S. and globally. We also reaffirmed our commitment to working through three mutually reinforcing programmatic levers: awareness raising, grantmaking, and policy and advocacy. Some of the key considerations for each of these arms of our work are discussed later in this report.

The strategic review and planning process helped chart immediate- and long-term priorities for EMC. We spent the second half of 2023 focused on hiring leadership for our Impact and Development teams, further refining criteria to inform decisions across each arm of our work, and setting out an implementation roadmap for 2024 and beyond.



The process revealed a few key findings about EMC.

- We have a strong, unique reputation for effectively engaging many different audiences, particularly through elevating the voices of partners and women who might not otherwise be heard.
- We have an opportunity to make even greater impact through grantmaking by refining our focus.
- To maximize impact, we need to adapt our organization structure and increase capacity, starting with our leadership bench.

Our Work in 2023

In 2023, our work was guided by our mission to make pregnancy and childbirth safe, respectful, and equitable for everyone, everywhere. Our achievements are measurable and extensive.

Here are some highlights.

Raising Awareness

A clear finding in our strategic planning work was that Every Mother Counts' focus on raising awareness about the maternal health crisis is a true strength. It was noted that this component of our work, which includes our storytelling, sets us apart from our peers and helps us reach a broad audience.

Our efforts to amplify the stories of women and birthing people personalizes statistics and makes alarming data points relatable. We educate through events and campaigns and engage through our running program. These activities are core to what we do and critical to our success building a motivated community of supporters and advocates.



8,095 individuals donated to EMC



93,471

people visited our website



people engaged in our work to raise awareness about maternal health

350 individuals ran as part of Team EMC in 18 races

Giving Birth In America: Arkansas

In 2023, Every Mother Counts premiered *Giving Birth in America: Arkansas*, the newest chapter in our *Giving Birth in America* series, at a special screening in Little Rock, Arkansas. This film is the seventh in the series which launched in 2015 to educate and raise awareness about the U.S. maternal health crisis.



The 20-minute film spotlights Arkansas, the state with the highest maternal mortality rate across the United States. GBA: Arkansas vividly paints a picture of the reality of the postpartum experience, which extends through a full year following the birth of a child. More than half of all maternal deaths take place during the postpartum period, yet this stage of pregnancy is often overlooked. The film follows three mothers, Ashleigh, Tynesha, and Wensie, as they grapple with mental health concerns, lack of paid leave, and other challenges in the days, weeks, and months following birth, highlighting key gaps in the current landscape of postpartum care. The film underscores the essential role of community-based support, especially within historically marginalized communities.

Alongside the film, EMC released a companion resource to drive action, the "Giving Birth in America: Arkansas Screening and Advocacy Guide". The film and companion guide opened the door to maternal health advocacy and storytelling opportunities in Arkansas and across the U.S.

- 66 The Giving Birth in America: Arkansas film has helped elevate the conversation about maternal health outcomes in our state to a whole new level.
 - **Dr. Nirvana A. Manning,** Chair and Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Arkansas Medical Sciences

Using a teaser of the film, we curated a conversation about maternal health at SXSW in Austin, Texas in March. Following the film's launch in April, we featured a discussion about maternal health at the Soiree Women's Leadership Forum in Little Rock, Arkansas. And in May, our Impact team colleagues used the film to inform an advocacy learning session at the Arkansas Maternal Health Community Hackathon. The film was showcased at the Bentonville Film Festival in June and was screened as part of the Women Deliver film festival in Kigali, Rwanda in July. We rounded out the year screening the film in December in New York City. At each opportunity, we paired screenings with panel conversations that featured maternal health experts and advocates and shared "Take Action" cards to help audiences to call on policymakers to support key maternal health legislation, including Medicaid extension through a full year postpartum.



More Awareness Raising Highlights



EMC Featured on 60 Minutes

In anticipation of the launch of *Giving Birth in America:*Arkansas, we worked closely with producers at 60

Minutes to develop an episode spotlighting the U.S.

maternal health crisis. The episode featured Every Mother

Counts and our grantee partner Birthmark Doula

Collective, based in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Watch the episode ▶



Dr. Chelsea Clinton Joins EMC's Mother's Day Celebration

Every Mother's Day, EMC hosts our annual MPower Luncheon. This year, Dr. Chelsea Clinton joined us for a conversation about the state of maternal health, and reasons for both outrage and optimism as we look to the future.



Team EMC Runs for Maternal Health

Over the course of 2023, 350 individuals hailing from 32 states and four countries, ran over 5,000 miles in 18 races to support EMC and draw attention to the distance many women around the world need to travel to access care.

Investing in Community-Led Solutions

Since our inception, Every Mother Counts has invested in locally led solutions that are filling gaps in underserved and historically marginalized communities experiencing poor maternal health outcomes. One of the core findings of the strategic planning work we underwent this year was that Every Mother Counts' grantmaking work is transformative for small community-based organizations, and that our work could be even more impactful if we honed our focus areas, geographies, and audiences.

Following the strategic planning process, and in recognition of the need to accelerate key solutions to address a deepening maternal health crisis, we refined our focus to support the provision of community-based care and growing, strengthening, and diversifying the maternity care workforce. Through our grantmaking, we aim to address disparities in maternal health outcomes and experiences by expanding the pipeline of providers and ensuring more mothers and birthing people have access to care that is safe, respectful, and equitable to ultimately address disparities in maternal health outcomes.

In 2023, Every Mother Counts invested nearly **\$4.2 million** in **48 organizations and programs** across nine core countries and additional one-time emergency grants.





Collectively, our grantees reached **177,414 people** with comprehensive maternal and reproductive healthcare and support.

Our grantees strengthened **226 health facilities**, trained **10,575 providers** in the healthcare sector (including community-based doulas, professional midwives, and traditional birth attendants), and ensured **13,384 births** were attended by a skilled provider.



EMC's Core Grantmaking

Centering community-led solutions is core to Every Mother Counts' mission.

Through our General Operating Support grants, we invest in our grantee partners' missions, rather than specific projects or programs. By providing the flexibility grantees need to decide how to best utilize funding to advance their work, grantees are supported to build more sustainable initiatives and organizations.

In 2023, we continued to invest in community-based organizations at the forefront of advancing safe, respectful, and equitable maternity care. As a key strategy to strengthen and deepen relationships with grantee partners, we visit organizations in our portfolio to learn more about their work firsthand, including challenges and opportunities, and to see and experience the impact they are making in their communities directly.



GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh & Bumi Sehat

In May and June, we spent time with Dr. Iftikher Mahmood at the HOPE Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh and Robin Lim at Bumi Sehat in Bali, Indonesia, two visionary leaders championing midwifery and respectful maternity care. We joined Dr. Mahmood in celebrating the grand opening of HOPE's new Maternity and Fistula Center, the largest facility of its kind in the region, and honored Robin Lim and the work of Bumi Sehat alongside local and international midwives as she took the stage at the 33rd International Confederation of Midwives Triennial Congress' closing plenary in Bali to bring greater awareness to the role of midwives as first responders.



GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

Uzazi Village and Roots Community Birth Center

In October, we visited our grantee partners, Uzazi Village in St. Louis, Missouri, and Roots Community Birth Center, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led by Hakima Payne and Rebecca Polston, two maternal health leaders who are pioneering their respective models of care, both organizations provide support rooted in birth justice and human rights, and informed by the communities they serve. These leaders and their dedicated staff are addressing racial disparities in maternal health through innovative approaches, including Roots' successful midwife-led community birth center model that has become an example for new birth centers across the U.S., and Uzazi Village's new Village Circle Prenatal Care Clinic that provides group prenatal culturally congruent care and support.

EMC's New Impact Scaler Grants

At Every Mother Counts, we're committed to continuous learning about how to best support and accelerate the impact of communitybased organizations implementing innovative solutions to advance maternal health. In 2023, we piloted our new Impact Scaler model of funding to grow and scale existing initiatives that have demonstrated significant improvements in maternal health. Through these grants, in partnership with our core grantee partners, we support evidence-based initiatives with the resources they need to scale their work and impact.

As we continue to develop and evolve our Impact Scaler model of funding in the coming years, we plan to work closely with our grantee partners to build robust partnerships that support the complex journey to scale.



GRANTEE PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

Lwala Community Alliance

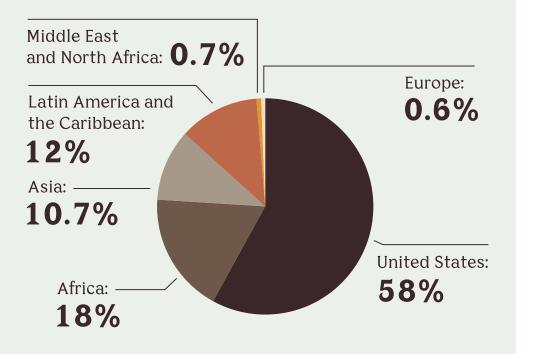
In Kenya, Lwala Community Alliance is working to address postpartum hemorrhage (PPH), the leading cause of maternal death in sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2018, Lwala's Obstetric Hemorrhage Initiative (OHI) has had a profound impact in Migori County, where PPH is no longer the leading cause of maternal mortality. Lwala's OHI bundle combines evidence-based protocols and tools for addressing life-threatening maternal health complications due to PPH – including the non-pneumatic anti-shock garment (NASG) – with health care provider training on how to use these tools effectively. With support from Every Mother Counts through an Impact Scaler grant, Lwala is rolling out this initiative across new counties in Kenya, which includes supporting changes in training tools and protocols, supply chains, enhanced data collection, and policies in close collaboration with government systems in order to scale sustainably.



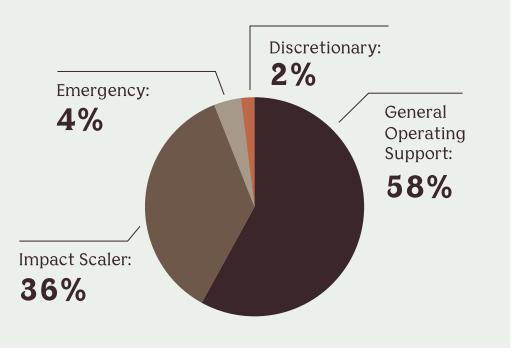
EMC Provides Emergency Grants in Ukraine, Gaza, and Hawaii

In 2023, unprecedented climate-related emergencies and humanitarian crises impacted the health and well-being of communities globally, disproportionately affecting women and children. Every Mother Counts issued emergency grants to support the provision of maternity care, along with emergency relief needs, through timely and coordinated response efforts in Ukraine, Gaza, and Hawaii. For example, when wildfires ravaged Maui in August 2023, EMC supported the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii to set up a makeshift clinic and transport their mobile unit to provide immediate access to critical medical supplies and enable midwives and birth workers to reach the most affected communities.









82%

of all core grantee organizations supported by EMC are led by women. 92% of all core grantee organizations supported by EMC are BIPOC-and locally led.

2023 Grantee Partners

Africa:

Foundation for African Medicine & Education (Tanzania)

Maasai Women Development Organization (Tanzania)

Thamini Uhai (Tanzania)

Dandelion Africa (Kenya)

International Childbirth Initiative (Kenya)

Let's End Fistula Initiative (Kenya)

Lwala Community Alliance (Kenya)

Latin America and the Caribbean:

Asociación Corazón del Agua (Guatemala)

Asociación de Comadronas del Area Mam (Guatemala)

Colectivo* (Women's Justice Initiative, Maya Health Alliance, MAIA, WINGS) (Guatemala)

Foundation for Advancement of Haitian Midwives (Haiti)

Grace Community Birth Center* (Haiti)

Maison de Naissance* (Haiti)

Midwives for Haiti (Haiti)

Project Medishare for Haiti* (Haiti)

Middle East and North Africa:

MedGlobal* (Gaza)

Asia:

HOPE Foundation for Women and Children (Bangladesh)

Nazdeek (India)

Bumi Sehat Foundation (Indonesia)

We Care Solar* (Indonesia)

One Heart Worldwide (Nepal)

Europe:

International Confederation of Midwives* (Ukraine)

United States:

Pregnancy Pop-Up Village (CA)

SisterWeb (CA)

Elephant Circle (CO)

Planned Parenthood of Southern New England (CT)**

Community of Hope (D.C.)

Mamatoto Village (D.C.)

Commonsense Childbirth (FL)

Magnolia Birth House (FL)

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii* (HI)

Birthmark Doula Collective (LA)

Accompany Doula Care (MA)

Neighborhood Birth Center (MA)

Roots Community Birth Center (MN)

Uzazi Village (MO)

University of North Carolina's Panther Creek OB/GYN Clinic (NC)**

Changing Woman Initiative (NM)

Tewa Women United (NM)

Ancient Song (NY/NJ)

Village Birth International (NY)

CHOICES Memphis Center for Reproductive Health (TN)**

Community for Children (TX)

Shades of Blue Project (TX)

Sueños Sin Fronteras de Tejas (TX)

JustBirth Space (National)

Note: this list does not include all of our discretionary grantees

^{*}Emergency or discretionary grant

^{**} Pilot sites for the clinical implementation of Choices in Childbirth content

Advocating for Systems Change

EMC's policy and advocacy arm complements our work at the community level by advancing broader, system-wide solutions. We support policymakers and maternal health advocates in the United States at the federal and state levels who are pushing for critical legislative changes that would meaningfully impact outcomes and experiences of care for pregnant people in this country.

The strategic planning process identified that EMC could play an important role in educating policymakers about critical maternal health issues, and that we could have a stronger role to play in equipping community-based partners with tools to advance grassroots advocacy—activities that will evolve in the years to come.

EMC Supports Federal Policy Priorities

In 2023, Every Mother Counts continued to support the development and passage of federal legislation and policies in the United States to improve maternal health outcomes, experiences of care, and address inequities.

Turlington Burns Every Mother Counts

Number of pieces of legislation supported at the federal level to advance maternal health

bills (including the 13 bills that comprise the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act)

8 appropriations bills

Last year, we endorsed and advocated for the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act (Momnibus) — a package of 13 bills designed to comprehensively address the maternal health crisis in the U.S. through historic and essential investments in community-based and equity-focused maternal health policies, programs, and providers—and the reintroduction of the Maximizing Outcomes for Moms through Medicaid Improvement and Enhancement of Services (MOMMIES) Act that would extend Medicaid through 12 months postpartum nationwide.

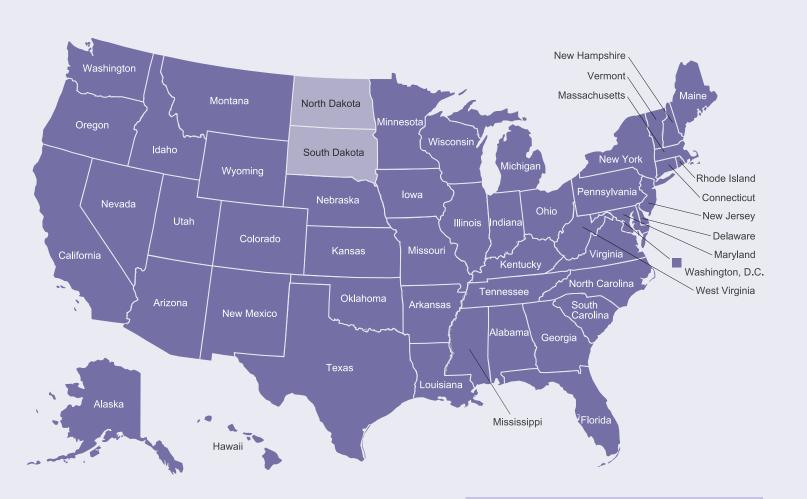
Throughout the year, we encouraged our community to make their voices heard in support of quality, respectful, and equitable maternity care for all.



2,407 advocates mobilized

The Doula and Perinatal Community Health Worker in Medicaid Learning Series

In partnership with the Institute for Medicaid Innovation (IMI), Every Mother Counts launched an eight-part, national "Doula and Perinatal Community Health Worker in Medicaid Learning Series" (DCLS). This virtual program highlighted state-level successes, challenges, and lessons learned when designing and implementing a Medicaid benefit for community-based perinatal support.



Registrants for EMC & IMI's Doula + Perinatal Community Health Worker in Medicaid Learning Series represented 48 States and D.C.

The Doula and Perinatal Community Health Worker in Medicaid Learning Series was designed for and open to all Medicaid stakeholders and partners who wanted an evidence-based roadmap to reducing perinatal disparities and improving birth equity. Each session featured expert speakers from across the country and was designed to amplify the voices and experiences of community-based perinatal support providers, including several EMC grantee partners, ensuring they were shaping solutions. The more than 1,000 series registrants included representatives from Medicaid health plans, state Medicaid agencies, federal agencies, community-based organizations, provider groups, and national and state-based professional, advocacy, and funder organizations, as well as community-based doulas and perinatal community health workers.

In October 2023, EMC and IMI published a final report summarizing high-level learnings from the series.

Read the final report here

1,000+

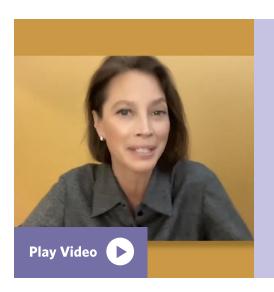
registrants participated in the series representing 48 states and D.C.

31 states

received additional technical assistance from EMC and IMI

"I have found the session resources very helpful. I have used them to compile best practices and choices my state agency needs to make regarding Doula reimbursement rates, qualifications, training, process, enrollment and outreach."

— DCLS learning series participant



Highlight: Listening to Mothers to Transform Maternity Care

In May 2023, EMC published the article "Every Mother Counts: listening to mothers to transform maternity care" in the American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology's Labor supplement. The article highlights the collective work and vision of Every Mother Counts and emphasizes how listening to mothers and birthing people is essential to advancing maternal health and birth equity.



A Look Ahead

While 2023 was a year of reflection and analysis for Every Mother Counts, 2024 promises to be a year of implementation! We are looking forward to putting our strategic plan into action. Though we know implementation will be challenging and will entail pivots and adjustments, we are excited about the prospect of testing our refined approach and building out new methods for measuring impact.

While our strategic approach will continue to evolve, **our core mission** remains, as always, to work toward a world where pregnancy and childbirth is safe, respectful, and equitable for everyone, everywhere.

To ensure that all people can access quality maternity care. To affirm that maternal health truly is a human right.

As we look to 2024 - a pivotal election year in more than 60 countries, including many where EMC has grantee partners — we believe our mission will be more important than ever. We will need your continued support to make strides toward achieving our mission. Thank you for your trust in our work and for your partnership, always.

2023 Financial Overview

Transparency and accountability are important to us. The information that follows outlines how Every Mother Counts used financial resources to advance maternal health in 2023. All information is drawn from EMC's 2023 audited financial statements which can be found on our **website**.

2023 Expenditures by Focus Area

Total: \$8,106,092

Awareness Raising: \$1,155,483

Grantmaking & Related Expenses: \$5,155,301

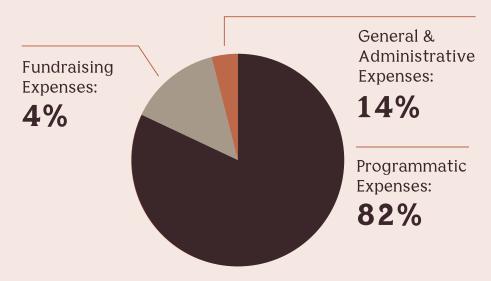
Policy & Advocacy: \$372,902

General & Administrative: \$1,095,238

Fundraising: **\$327,168**

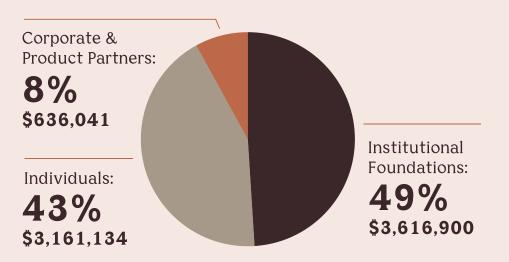
2023 Financial Overview

2023
Functional
Expenses
Breakdown





Total: \$7,414,075



Ending net assets: \$10,691,105

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^{**}gift is part of a larger, multiyear commitment



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Cover: Left to right top to bottom: Cheering for Team EMC at the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon, in November 2023. Credit: Grace Sheed. Christy Turlington Burns chats with Dr. Chelsea Clinton at MPower, EMC's Mother's Day luncheon, in May 2023. Credit: Nina Rabinovitch Blecker. Giving Birth in America: Arkansas promotional poster featuring Sarita Hendrix, Tynesha Ivory, and baby Mila Lattimore. Team EMC runner at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, in October 2023. Credit: Aria Isadora. Bumi Sehat founder Robin Lim pictured with Christy Turlington Burns just outside the reception area at Yayasan Bumi Sehat, located in Nyuh Kuning, in Ubud, in Bali, Indonesia, in June 2023. Credit: Janet Jarman. The Maternity ward at the HOPE Field Hospital for Women in the Rohingya refugee camp, located in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, in June 2023. Credit: Habibul Haque / Drik. New mother, Clara, holds her newborn baby, Carter, at Magnolia Birth House in Florida, in April 2023. Credit: Mint & Cocoa. Letter: Christy Turlington Burns stands in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., during the Black Maternal Health Caucus Stakeholder Summit, in August, 2023. Credit: Courtney Yannacci Saldana. Spotlight on Every Mother Counts' Strategic Plan: Every Mother Counts cheers at the Golden Gate Half Marathon in San Francisco, California, in November 2023. Credit: Jaime Borschuk. Raising Awareness: Left to right top to bottom: Latona Giwa, Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14), Emily Ramshaw, and Christy Turlington Burns at the SHE Media Co-Lab at SXSW in Austin, Texas, in March 2023. Credit: SHE Media. Team EMC runner at the 2023 TCS New York City Marathon, in November 2023. Credit: Grace Sheed. Spotlight on Giving Birth in America: Arkansas: Dr. Sharmila Makhija speaks at the screening of Giving Birth in America: Arkansas at the Bentonville Film Festival, in June 2023. Credit: Grace Sheed. Other Highlights in Our Efforts to Raise Awareness about Maternal Health: Top to bottom: Latona Giwa of Birthmark Doula Collective, and Christy Turlington Burns at the recording of 60 Minutes in Austin, Texas, in March 2023. Credit: Nina Rabinovitch Blecker. Dr. Chelsea Clinton and Christy Turlington Burns at MPower, in May 2023. Credit: Aria Isadora. Team EMC runner at the Bank of America Chicago Marathon, in October 2023. Credit: Aria Isadora. Investing in Solutions: Left to right top to bottom: Midwife Rachel Voigt treating mother Demetria Poe in a clinic room at Roots Community Birth Center, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in October 2023. Credit: Gather Birth Cooperative. Midwife Bd. Ni Luh De Nepi Kusraeni rejoices with mothers Stefani Salikunna Pumpun, Nabilah Vidya Sagita, and Kadek Murniasih, near the entrance of Yayasan Bumi Sehat, located in Nyuh Kuning, near Ubud, in Bali, Indonesia, where all mothers recently gave birth, in June 2023. Credit: Janet Jarman. Midwife Khadija Khatun Barnona counsels and examines a pregnant woman at HOPE Field Hospital for Women in the Rohingya refugee camp, in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, in May 2023. Credit: Habibul Haque / Drik. Spotlight on EMC's Core Grantmaking: Left to right: HOPE Hospital, established in 2005, is a 40-bed, 24-hour hospital that serves patients in the district of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, pictured here in June 2023. Credit: Habibul Haque / Drik. EMC staff visit Uzazi Village in St. Louis, Missouri, in October 2023. Credit: Uzazi Village. Spotlight on EMC's New Impact Scaler Grants: Top to bottom: The Lwala team demonstrates use of the non-pneumatic anti-shock garment to address postpartum hemorrhage in Rongo, Kenya, in February 2022. Credit: Sarah Waiswa. The Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii stand by their mobile unit used to reach the communities most affected by the Maui wildfires, in August 2023. Credit: Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawaii. Advocating for Systems Change: Top to bottom: Christy Turlington Burns speaks at the Black Maternal Health Caucus Stakeholder Summit in Washington, D.C., in August 2023. Credit: Courtney Yannacci Saldana. Christy Turlington Burns and Representative Lauren Underwood (IL-14) stand with a framed copy of the New York Times opinion piece published by EMC that hangs in the Congresswoman's office, in August 2023. Credit: Nina Rabinovitch Blecker. Our Donors & Supporters: Christy Turlington Burns with Jane Drichta and Martine Jean-Baptiste of Midwives for Haiti, winners of the Orange Rose Award at MPower, in May 2023. Credit: Courtney Yannacci Saldana





