

# SHOWING UP TO SUPPORT FAMILIES DURING COVID-19

Local breastfeeding supporters continue to serve families before, during, and after the pandemic.

Breastfeeding supporters throughout Battle Creek successfully advocated for a full-time IBCLC position at Bronson Battle Creek that recognizes the IBCLC as a stand-alone credential and does not require other certifications such as RN or RD

Bump to Birth Doula Services worked with Governor Whitmer to declare March 22-28, 2021 "Doula Appreciation Week" Quoting Jessica English of Birth Kalamazoo and Heart Soul Birth Pros, "[These] efforts aren't just a nicety, they help get us in front of the governor and legislators to help them understand the value of doulas. Way to go!"

Sokhna Heathyre Mabin has been invited to **Eat, Pray, Doula in Bali** and will be attending in May 2021

Milk Like Mine! is now providing doula services for families in addition to breastfeeding support



Breastfeeding and Mental Health Working Group met with MC3 and successfully advocated to breastfeeding-supportive messaging and education to be distributed to all family practice physicians participating in their program

As COVID-19 restrictions lessen, local public health departments and birthing hospitals must follow the lead of community-based breastfeeding support organizations by:

Centering families

Collaborating and demonstrating mutual respect for birth and breastfeeding