



MIBFN

ANNUAL

2021

REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Dear Reader,

The inequities that challenge Michigan families have only been heightened by the pandemic. While COVID-19 continues to present many challenges, it has also opened up opportunities for us to shift the existing breastfeeding “status quo” by advocating for systemic changes, expanding our platform of free webinars that center Black and Indigenous presenters, and supporting organizations that are innovatively addressing inequities within their own communities across Michigan.

From Natosha, “When I joined the MIBFN board, I never imagined the incredible work and impact the organization would have on our community, and throughout Michigan. Even in the face of a pandemic, MIBFN staff and board members heightened our focus on serving alongside leaders in equity- and justice-centered systems change. It is so vitally important for families to be at the center of the work we are doing. I believe everyone at MIBFN is aligned in our commitment to equity and justice, and walks the walk with increased focus with each year that passes.”

From Gayle, “It is a pleasure to continue in serving and learning in this space with the MIBFN team, who is truly committed to making a change to further support lactating families. It is especially important to me, and I am so pleased that we share this commitment, to collaborate and serve in solidarity with breastfeeding supporters and families throughout Michigan to create a breastfeeding-supportive culture for families.”

It has been inspiring to work alongside organizations and community members throughout Michigan to advance our mission-driven work of advocacy, education, and community-building for a more just, equitable, and breastfeeding-supportive culture. As you read through the following pages, we hope that you will be as encouraged during these unprecedented times as we are to continue to support and help us grow in this life-changing work.

In solidarity,

**Gayle Shipp, PhD, RD, PHP, CLS and
Natosha Sage-EL Bylsma, BA, IBCLC**

Board of Directors Co-Chairs, Michigan Breastfeeding Network

Gayle Shipp



Natosha Sage-EL Bylsma



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Breastfeeding Supporter,

The words on my heart to share with you are: **Thank You.**

Thank you for showing up, for pouring your hearts into this work, and for creating paths forward when the obstacles seemed so big. As we prepared this report, it was clear that 2021 was so incredibly heavy. It was also so incredibly beautiful. Throughout the last year, during the seemingly endless news cycles so filled with tragedy and despair that it could fill entire history books, our collective has persevered. In fact, let's speak it, ***our collective power has grown.*** You did that. As a mama whose personal breastfeeding journey ended in 2021, my gratitude for your efforts is personal too. Thank you.

We hope you'll join us in celebrating another incredible year of collaboration over competition, barrier-breaking and new path creation, and challenging ourselves and each other to keep doing our own internal work along the way.

Thank you for everything you are, everything you do, and everything you bring to our work together. We see you, we appreciate you, and we are committed to serving alongside you.

Onward in solidarity,

Shannon McKenney Shubert, MPH, CLC

Executive Director, Michigan Breastfeeding Network
Advocacy Teams Lead, Michigan Breastfeeding Network
Chair Emeritus, Wayne County Breastfeeding Coalition
Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Dearborn, Michigan



NEW MISSION AND VISION

In 2021, our team updated our organization's mission and vision to ensure that it aligns with our ongoing commitment to equity-centered, systems-level breastfeeding change throughout Michigan.

MISSION

We advocate, educate, and community-build alongside families and organizations for the advancement of an equitable, just, and breastfeeding-supportive culture.

VISION

- We envision human milk feeding-supporters of every identity serving in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized folx, dismantling unjust and inequitable systems of oppression - white supremacy, patriarchy, and capitalism.
- We envision building new systems that support human lactation centered in equity and justice.
- We envision the decolonization and reclamation of traditional birth, lactation and infant feeding cultural norms.
- We envision Black joy and Indigenous communities thriving.





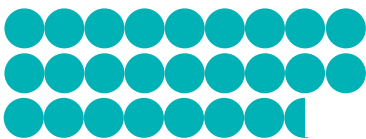
**2021
MISSION-
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EFFORTS**



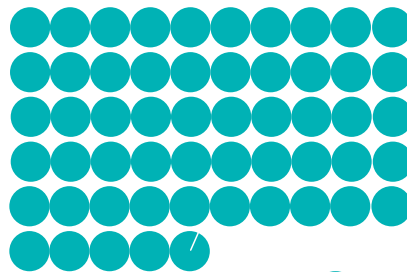
EDUCATION

Our education efforts are informed by listening and learning how to better meet the needs of learners, presenters, and sponsoring partners on the Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars. Based on this, in 2021, we were committed to increasing accessibility, expanding continuing education offerings, along with providing consistent and free access to equity-focused education each month.

2749 unique webinar participants



5498 continuing ed certs requested



● = 100



"One of my favorite things about serving as Education Manager has been working alongside the webinar presenters. The series endeavors to center the voices of Black and Indigenous presenters who have worked diligently throughout COVID-19 to support breastfeeding in their communities and each webinar provides tools for participants to do the same with the families they serve. It is a privilege to be a part of this work, listening and learning along the way."

Vicki Wood



Vicki Wood, CLC, CLS, MIBFN Education Project Manager



Open Captions Established

In alignment with our commitment to accessibility and in response to participant feedback, open captions were added to webinars.



Rush Certificates Available

Rush processing is now available for all on-demand webinars to allow for continuing education certificates to be requested quickly.



Expanded Continuing Education

Each webinar is worth 1 CERP, nurse's contact hour, social work CE hour, dietitian CPEU, Community Health Worker CEU, Certified Health Education Specialist CECH, and CME up to 1 year after the initial air date.

"I wish everyone in birthing and lactation care could listen to these webinars. They are absolutely fantastic."

- Webinar participant

"This was my first experience using The Great Lakes Breastfeeding webinars, it was a great first experience and I will continue to utilize this amazing resource to broaden my scope of knowledge for increased support for the families I work with."

- Webinar participant

Thank you to the GLBW sponsoring partners!

We are grateful to offer the Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars free of charge to participants as part of our partnership with **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Health and Wellness** with support provided by **Ohio Department of Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Illinois Department of Public Health, Minnesota Department of Health, Connecticut Department of Public Health WIC Division, and Tyler Rigg Foundation.**

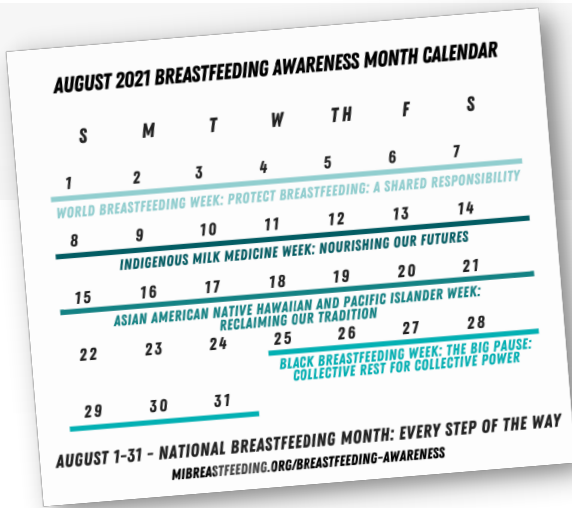


ADVOCACY

Our advocacy efforts are focused on listening to and investing in solidarity with birth workers who reflect and serve alongside the most marginalized families across Michigan. In 2021, we leveraged the 12 Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings to spark action leading to policy changes from within local communities across Michigan.

Advocated for changes in governmental policy

Activated our advocacy teams to ensure our elected officials are consistently hearing from breastfeeding supporters, specifically mobilizing breastfeeding advocates around the advancement of state and federal workplace legislation as well as the directive from Governor Whitmer regarding improved conditions for incarcerated birthing persons

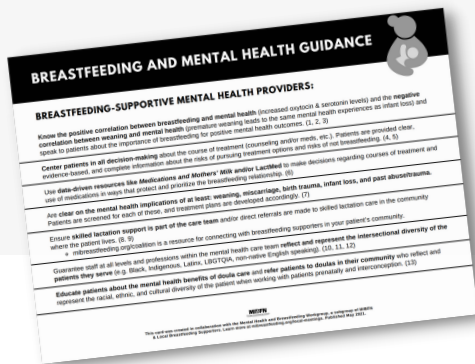
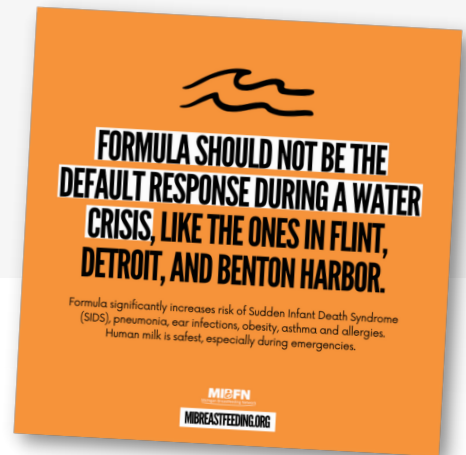
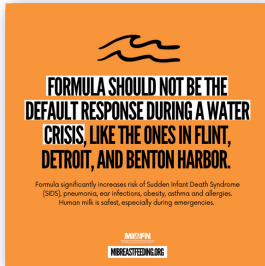


Amplified and coordinated breastfeeding month and weekly celebrations

Supported establishment of the first-ever Native Breastfeeding Week proclamation in Michigan



Formed Emergencies Working Group, co-created and published lead poisoning prevention guidance in light of the continued water poisoning crises throughout Michigan



Formed Mental Health Working Group, co-created and published breastfeeding and mental health guidance for health care and public health providers



"The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health is proud to serve alongside MIBFN, and we value the opportunities we have had to collaborate as we work toward ensuring every family in our state is supported in breastfeeding. We are grateful for their expertise. MIBFN is a crucial partner as we advocate for policy changes across systems to address barriers that lead to inadequate breastfeeding support and racial inequities in breastfeeding outcomes."

Amy Zaagman, MCMCH Executive Director





COMMUNITY BUILDING

Our community-building efforts are centered in sisterhood and relationships, trusting and investing in Black and Indigenous-led birth and breastfeeding supporters and organizations across the state in the quest to reclaim traditional practices and return the power to community, whom have always had the answers.



“The heart, sweat, and tears each community partner puts into this work is seen and felt in immeasurable ways. Every day our MIBFN team and community-based partners work tirelessly with one another to bring about systemic change in their local geographic and identity-based organizations. I’m beyond grateful to serve alongside so many birth and breastfeeding trailblazers from around our state that are committed to equity and justice for those that are most marginalized throughout Michigan and beyond.”

Jennifer Day



Jennifer Day, IBCLC, RLC, MIBFN Community Building Project Manager

“I hope to inspire other BIPOC birth workers to take up space in whitewashed wellness spaces, and reclaim and mend their ancestral traumas through this work.”

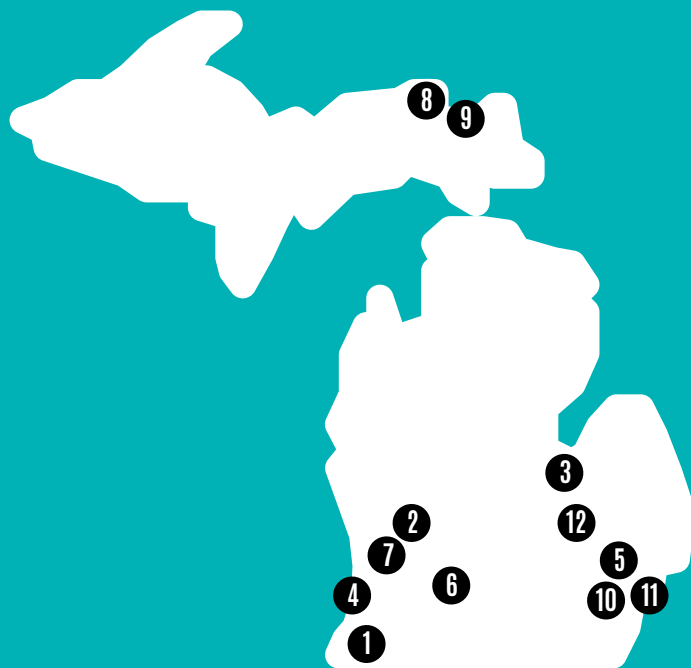
Micaela McHenry, FSD,
Sage and Rebozos

Micaela McHenry



CORE COHORT MEMBERS

This cohort is composed of 12 Black and Indigenous breastfeeding supporters and organizations who have chosen collaboration over competition. We were initially awarded mini-grants through MDHHS and Michigan Breastfeeding Network to advance our work, centering Black and Indigenous families in the reclamation and restoration of traditional birth and breast/bodyfeeding practices that have sustained our families for centuries. Our work is initially focused in the areas of COVID-19, young mothers and fathers, and child care. We work collaboratively in sisterhood (not cis-terhood) to network, incubate, take action, and achieve outcomes in solidarity with the families in our communities.



1 Birth Queens and Milk Queens

2 Bump to Birth Doula Services

3 Full Circle Doula Services

4 LactPower

5 Learn, Lactate, Grow

6 Milk Like Mine

7 Nizhoní Sol Birthwork

8 Panoramic Doula

9 Postpartum Healing Lodge/Nourishing Nations

10 Sage and Rebozos

11 Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color

12 YOLO Birth and Breastfeeding Support





New Partnership with Sacred Bundle Birthworker Collective

It has been our honor to serve alongside Sacred Bundle, an Indigenous-led organization with individuals serving Indigenous communities throughout Michigan to provide a traditional support system, as they have formalized their organizational structure and planned how they will show up for one another and the families they serve alongside. Their collective power is seen and felt. We look forward to continuing to serve alongside them.

Continued Support of Mi Milk Collective

We are grateful to continue to serve in solidarity with Mi Milk Collective, a standing workgroup that is dedicated to operationalizing system change through sisterhood, mentorship, policy advocacy, and celebration of Black birthing and Black breastfeeding.

Geographic Organization Collaboration with Next Generation Lactation Services

As we work alongside identity organizations, we have also formalized how we serve alongside organizations who serve families of all identities within a certain geographic area. We are grateful to partner with our first geographic organization, Next Generation Lactation Services, and look forward to collaborating with additional geographic organizations in the coming years.



"I am so grateful to work alongside our community partners. They demonstrate such a passionate commitment to centering families in their communities and tailoring their offerings to meet their communities' needs. It is inspiring and humbling to see the ways they go above and beyond for families."

Kaitlyn Bowen, MS, RD, CLC, MIBFN Communications and Data Manager





MOBILIZING FUNDS

We have prioritized collaborating with Black and Indigenous-led birth and breastfeeding supporters to mobilize funds to further their work and capacity to serve more families through merchandise and peer-to-peer fundraisers.

Collaborated with Milk Like Mine, YOLO, and LactPower on merchandise fundraisers

\$424.25
merchandise sales



Worked alongside Lindsey McGahey, IBC, IFSD, BE and YOLO Breastfeeding on peer-to-peer fundraising campaigns



\$6789.55

raised towards the Reclaim Indigenous Breastfeeding fundraiser in collaboration with Lindsey McGahey, IBC, IFSD, BE



\$9640.00

raised towards the No Mom Left Behind fundraiser in collaboration with YOLO Breastfeeding



“My mission is to be an inclusive space while making sure people have access to safe and evidence-based resources and information. My mission is to care and nurture people in their experiences as a foundation in restoring innate trust in the bodies of Indigenous peoples to heal future generations. My dreams are huge but they are necessary to heal the planet.”



Lindsey McGahey, IBC, IFSD, BE, Panoramic Doula



“We can have solutions for families within our community and we know the solutions, but unless we have the resources to answer the problem, the disparities will continue to happen.”

Shonte' Terhune-Smith, BS, IBCLC,
YOLO Breastfeeding

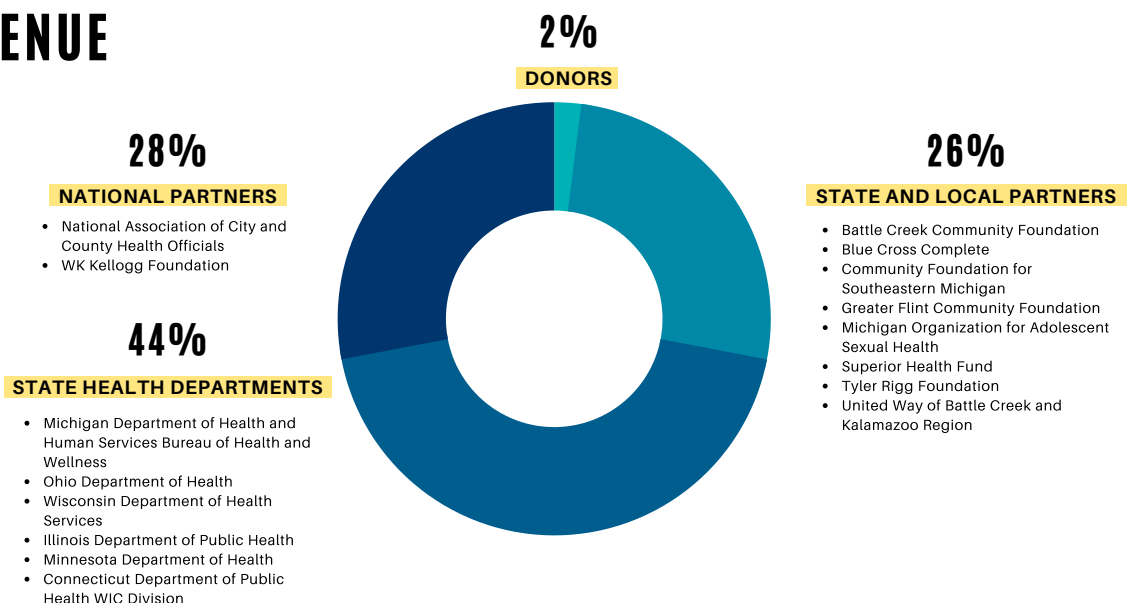




FINANCIALS

Investment in human milk feeding has been identified by the WHO and many other groups as a key strategy for improving maternal and infant health outcomes. And yet, it's an uphill battle we fight every day to ensure that folks with funds, and those who can influence where funds are allocated, understand just how crucial it is to prioritize breastfeeding. We endeavor to ensure our investments reflect our commitment to our mission and vision.

REVENUE



EXPENSES



THE WORK CONTINUES

As we shift into this next phase of this work, we are working towards broadening the group of partners who financially sustains our efforts, expanding our partnerships, deepening our mission-driven impact, and sustaining our growth.



"It's so incredible to work alongside the MIBFN board, staff, and partners as we all strive to move the work forward. On the one hand, **I'm humbled by the wisdom that has been brought to light as we've had the privilege of learning from those at the heart of the work.** At the same time, I feel like the more we come together, the more powerful we'll become in our efforts to continually grow our capacity to serve."

Caty Jolley



Caty Jolley, CLC, CD, BS, Implementation Coordinator



JOIN THE MOVEMENT!

**DONATE TODAY AT
[MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/DONATE](https://mibreastfeeding.org/donate)**

When you invest in MIBFN, your contributions will support our work for breastfeeding equity and justice in 2022.

**YOU CAN HELP US INCREASE OUR
CAPACITY TO WORK TOWARDS
OUR MISSION-DRIVEN EFFORTS.**