

PROJECT REPORT

REVIVING THE VILLAGE



OVERVIEW

This partnership prioritized the education and training of Flint-based, Black lactation supporters to provide the families in their community with skilled, accessible, culturally relevant care, as a model created by a Black, female-led organization for sustainability through mentorship, career opportunities, and community-driven solutions. This project serves to expand on YOLO's current services and creates an educational model that trains aspiring lactation supporters that reflect and represent the communities they serve.

TIMEFRAME



5/1/21-4/30/22

AMOUNT



\$75,000

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WE COULD ADVANCE THE FIELD WITH BLACK AND INDIGENOUS BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS IF WE ELIMINATED THE FINANCIAL BARRIERS THAT IMPACT OUR COMMUNITIES TO GET INTO THE FIELD.”

SHONTE' TERHUNE-SMITH, BS,
IBCLC, CLS, BD, YOLO FOUNDER



GOAL 1: ESTABLISH A NEW 45-HOUR LACTATION CURRICULUM THAT CENTERS BLACK LACTATION CARE, AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF BLACK EXPERTS, AND PROVIDES ANTI-RACIST LACTATION TRAINING TO DOMINANT CULTURE LACTATION SUPPORTERS WHILE WORKING ALONGSIDE BLACK LACTATION SUPPORTERS.

CREATED MATERIALS, DEVELOPED CURRICULUM, AND DESIGNED A VIRTUAL PLATFORM TO PROVIDE TRAINING.

The "**Reviving the Village**" course was created for community members, grassroots organizations, and breastfeeding supporters that are in search of growing professionally. This course centers Black lactation care amplifies the voices of Black experts and provides anti-racist lactation training to dominant culture lactation supporters while working alongside Black lactation supporters. This 45-hour credit course can count towards educational hours before the IBCLC exam. If one's goal is to be part of the solution in your community, this course is for them!

With this course, folx become certified as a Village Breastfeeding Specialist.

Topics this course covers:

- Communication
- Counseling
- Breastfeeding in Color (supporting BIPOC families)
- And more!



LAUNCHED AND PUBLICIZED 5-DAY, 45-HOUR COURSE FOR LACTATION SUPPORTERS SEEKING 45-HOUR CREDITS PRIOR TO IBCLC EXAM.

FOLX WANT TO GET EDUCATED.

YOLO received **118 scholarship applications from Black and Indigenous folx** for the course. This demonstrates that folx desire anti-racist breastfeeding education and that providing additional scholarships may alleviate the financial burden and make this education more widely accessible.

YOLO honed in on their expertise and knowledge to develop and launch the course with intentionality, including the use of case studies as a hands-on learning strategy, brown and tan breast models, and custom-designed pages for note-taking. The course has been promoted by YOLO and community organizations with a current cohort of mentees and scholarship awardees participating in the course.



GOAL 2: ESTABLISH A NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM THAT CENTERS BLACK LACTATION CARE, AMPLIFIES THE VOICES OF BLACK EXPERTS, AND PROVIDES ANTI-RACIST LACTATION TRAINING TO DOMINANT CULTURE LACTATION SUPPORTERS WHILE WORKING ALONGSIDE BLACK LACTATION SUPPORTERS.



CREATED MATERIALS, DEVELOPED CURRICULUM, AND DESIGNED A PLATFORM TO PROVIDE ONE YEAR COMPENSATED MENTORSHIP FOR TWO LACTATION SUPPORTERS IN FLINT AND GENESEE COUNTY.



ESTABLISHED THE ROLE OF THE MENTEE AS PART OF THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY SERVE BY LEVERAGING EXISTING RELATIONSHIP WITH LOCAL MIDWIFE TO SECURE PLACEMENT SITES FOR MENTEES.



IDENTIFIED AND ESTABLISHED PARTNERSHIP WITH TWO ANTI-RACIST LACTATION SUPPORTERS TO TAKE PART IN THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM, TO PREPARE THEM FOR COMMUNITY-BASED COMPONENTS OF LACTATION WORK WITH PROFESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.



BEGAN TRAINING, PROVIDING DIDACTICAL EDUCATION, AND PLANS FOR PLACING TWO MENTEES AS PART OF THE YOLO VILLAGE MODEL.

THE BEGINNING OF A MODEL THAT WILL SAVE LIVES.

The first year of this program has laid the groundwork for **a model that will continue to grow in an effort to expand and diversify the field of lactation support** so that families can receive support from providers that reflect and represent them.



GOAL 3: EXPAND THE REACH AND ESTABLISH FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED IN GOALS 1 AND 2 BY AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF BLACK EXPERTS AND PROVIDING ANTI-RACIST LACTATION TRAINING TO DOMINANT CULTURE LACTATION SUPPORTERS WHILE WORKING ALONGSIDE BLACK LACTATION SUPPORTERS.



ON A FEE FOR SERVICE BASIS, PROVIDED ONGOING EDUCATION FOR SKILLED LACTATION PROFESSIONALS IN THE COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALS TO ADVANCE THEIR LACTATION SKILLS.



HELD JOINT FUNDRAISER WITH MIBFN TO PURCHASE HANDS-FREE PUMPS FOR WORKING FAMILIES IN FLINT.

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SERVING ALONGSIDE SHONTE’ IS SUCH AN INCREDIBLE HONOR. SHE IS RELENTLESSLY DEDICATED TO HER COMMUNITY, AND IS CONSISTENTLY DEVELOPING FRESH, BRILLIANT STRATEGIES THAT ADVANCE THE WORK IN WAYS THAT INSPIRE AND MOTIVATE EVERYONE SHE MEETS.”

SHANNON MCKENNEY SHUBERT, MPH, CLC,
MIBFN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



YOLO PIVOTS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEED.

YOLO listens and learns from folx they work alongside to pivot programs and offerings based on community need. As a recent example, YOLO recognized a need for hands-free pumps for working families in Flint. **They collaborated with MIBFN on a joint fundraiser which resulted in being able to purchase 24 hands-free pumps, 24 personal use pumps, and 20 hands-free bras for distribution in Flint and surrounding areas.** The innate iterative nature of YOLO helps them to better meet families where they are at to support them in meeting their lactation goals.

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SHONTE'S HEART AND COMMITMENT TO SERVING FLINT AND GENESEE COUNTY FAMILIES ARE UNMATCHED. WHEN SHE SEES A NEED SHE FILLS IT. SHE IS A MENTOR, LEADER, VISIONARY, AND GIFT TO EVERY PERSON THAT IS CONNECTED TO HER. MIBFN IS GRATEFUL FOR THE PARTNERSHIP AND AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH YOLO, AND WE ARE ETERNALLY HONORED AND GRATEFUL TO SERVE ALONGSIDE. HER VISION IS THE SOLUTION TO IMPROVED MATERNAL-CHILD HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR HER COMMUNITY!”

JENNIFER DAY, IBCLC, RLC, MIBFN
COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECT MANAGER



WHAT'S NEXT?

YOLO is excited to continue moving this work forward, including:

- Creating a self-paced version of the "Reviving the Village" course
- Offering parts of the course as a la carte modules
- Developing an 18-hour CLC maintenance course
- Beginning new partnership leading MIBFN's educational programming

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE FLINT CHILD HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT FUND, CLARA ELIZABETH MATERNAL HEALTH FUND, HEALTHY START FOR CHILDREN FUND, AND THE ARTHUR L. TUURI HEALTH FUND OF THE FOUNDATION FOR FLINT FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THIS WORK.

