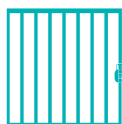


COMMUNITY IS CRUCIAL TO THE BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING JUSTICE MOVEMENT

THE ABILITY TO NOURISH, NURTURE, AND BOND WITH AN INFANT DEPENDS ON STRONG FAMILY AND COMMUNITY TIES – ALL OF WHICH ARE DEEPLY HARMED BY FORCED SEPARATION POLICIES.



Human milk feeding is more than nutrition; it is a biological and emotional relationship that depends on proximity, security, and community support – all of which are compromised when families are separated.



Current immigration enforcement and detention policies have caused family separations that interrupt human milk feeding, with long-term consequences for infant health, maternal mental health, and broader community well-being.



Lactation cannot be isolated from the broader community context; separation policies dismantle the essential community infrastructures – such as culturally responsive lactation care and peer support networks – that families rely on.



Despite these barriers, community organizations like Mama's Mobile Milk are finding ways to transport human milk from separated lactating parents to their infants, demonstrating the life-saving role of grassroots networks when systems fail the families they are meant to protect.

AS BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS, OUR STRENGTH HAS ALWAYS COME FROM COMMUNITY AS WE STAND TOGETHER IN LOVE, SOLIDARITY, AND SHARED PURPOSE.



Medicaid reimbursement for doulas remains limited and difficult to access, creating barriers that prevent many families from receiving the care they deserve.



Local Breastfeeding Supporters want a space, like the Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings, to discuss actionable steps to keep the work moving forward.

“IN MOMENTS OF CHALLENGE, IT IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAT WE REMEMBER: OUR WORK IS DEEPLY INTERCONNECTED. WHEN WE STAND TOGETHER, ROOTED IN CARE, TRUST, AND A COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, WE MOVE MOUNTAINS. IT IS THROUGH OUR COLLECTIVE POWER, NOT ISOLATION, THAT WE WILL CREATE A WORLD WHERE EVERY FAMILY CAN NOURISH THEIR CHILDREN IN DIGNITY AND PEACE.”

Shonte' Terhune-Smith, IBCLC, MIBFN Community Education Manager



MIBFN
Michigan Breastfeeding Network

THIS REPORT WAS GENERATED FROM DISCUSSION AT THE APRIL 17, 2025 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE MEETINGS, VISIT [MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/LOCAL-MEETINGS](https://mibreastfeeding.org/local-meetings).