

Dearest Families,

Birth is hard work, as anyone who has done it knows. And attending birth is hard work too. Especially when one is a midwife that sees the disparities in health care in our communities for respectful, unbiased, and accessible maternity care and seeks a way to make a difference. Acorn Community Birth and Wellness Center has done that for almost 10 years now. We have helped hundreds of babies come into this world in a way that respects birth, provides natural birth options, and gives access to true choice for people who would otherwise have no options for their care. But midwives are not superheroes, and this work is demanding in ways that stretch our bodies, hearts, and souls.

We are currently experiencing a huge shortage of midwives in the United States for the amount of people seeking midwifery care options. We have tried for over a year to find midwives with a passion for this work that would fill our staffing needs. Birth centers everywhere are closing due to lack of funding, lack of staff, and lack of support from the greater medical community. And while we have tried for as long as we can to serve our community in a sustainable way, the midwives at Acorn need to rest and care for themselves. This work takes a toll, and it is out of necessity to protect both our midwives and our families that we must pause in our work. Therefore, Acorn Community Birth and Wellness Center will be on sabbatical for 2025 and will not be accepting clients during this time. We will also be assisting many of our current families to find care with other midwifery and OB practices for the rest of the year. Please know this is out of necessity and with the utmost concern for the wellbeing of both our birthing families and the health of our midwives.

I am deeply grieving not being able to care for the families I wish to right now. But I also must recognize that, to continue to serve into the future, I must have time with my own family, to heal and reconnect with my own heart, and hopefully come back in a stronger, wiser way to continue the work that is so needed in this world. I hope you can provide us all with understanding, compassion, and grace during this transition.

In Service and in Love,

Cristi Lewis LM, CPM  
Director/Licensed Midwife  
Acorn Community Birth and Wellness Center