The Midwife Foundation
formerly the A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc.

NEWSLETTER
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FROM THE FOUNDATION

Conference news and the midwives we honor

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



As The Midwife Foundation begins a new chapter, I am delighted to share some of the highlights of an exciting year of celebrating and supporting midwives.

In this issue, we reflect on memorable moments from Lisbon to Kansas City, recognize extraordinary midwives whose leadership and service are advancing our profession, and honor those whose longstanding dedication has helped shape the Foundation's legacy.

I hope you enjoy this glimpse into our activities and join us in celebrating the remarkable people who make our work so meaningful. We are deeply grateful to our donors, partners, and supporters whose generosity makes these efforts possible.

Together, we will continue investing in midwives, changing lives, and advancing health.

Lisa Kane Low
President, Board of Trustees

ICM LISBON HIGHLIGHTS

International Confederation of Midwives | June 14-18, 2026 | Lisbon, Portugal

For the first time, The Midwife Foundation formally participated in the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Triennial Congress, held June 14-18 in Lisbon, Portugal, bringing together more than 3,000 midwives from around the world.

In collaboration with ICM, the Foundation proudly presented four Bonnie Westenberg Pedersen International Midwife Awards and marked a historic milestone with the first presentation of the Dorothea M. Lang International Pioneer Award, celebrating outstanding midwives whose leadership and contributions are advancing the profession globally.

As part of the Reimagination initiative, a collaborative effort of ACNM and The Midwife Foundation, we also invited midwives attending the Congress to share their perspectives through a brief Listen to Midwives survey, helping inform our future priorities and activities.



The Midwife Foundation's exhibit at ICM 2026 in Lisbon, shared with ACNM and NACPM as part of the Foundation's Reimagination initiative.



The four recipients of the 2026 Bonnie Westenberg Pedersen International Midwife Awards.

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

2026 is shaping up to be a record year for The Midwife Foundation's scholarships and awards, reflecting our growing investment in midwives and the future of the profession. We look forward to sharing more about this year's impact in the coming months.

ACNM KANSAS CITY

American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting | October 9-12, 2026

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF DOROTHEA M. LANG



Established in 2014 by Dorothea M. Lang, CNM, MPH, FACNM, a pioneering midwifery leader, educator, and advocate, the annual Lang Reception honors midwives certified for 30 years or more. Made possible through the generous support of the John & Frank Sparacio Foundation, this year's reception welcomed more than 70 participants, including current and past Lang Pioneer Award recipients and Katri Brewer, the Sparacio Foundation's Executive Director and Dorothea's niece.

38TH THERESE DONDERO MEMORIAL LECTURE



Sponsored by The Midwife Foundation, the annual Therese Dondero Memorial Lecture honors the legacy of a pioneering midwife, educator, and advocate who founded the renowned midwifery service at North Central Bronx Hospital. Established in her memory, the lecture celebrates Therese Dondero's commitment to clinical excellence, women's rights, and midwifery education.
This year's distinguished lecturer, Dr. María Gloria Domínguez-Bello, Professor of Microbiome and Health at Rutgers University, explored emerging research on the early-life microbiome and its implications for maternity and newborn care.

CELEBRATING OUR 2026 LANG PIONEER AWARD RECIPIENTS

Established in 2002 by Dorothea M. Lang, the Lang Pioneer Award is The Midwife Foundation's most prestigious honor, recognizing midwives whose exceptional leadership, advocacy, and service have advanced the profession over at least 20 years. This year, we proudly honored Dr. Lisa Hanson and Dr. Esla Aminlewis, whose remarkable contributions exemplify the pioneering spirit of this award. We also celebrated Nester T. Moyo of Zimbabwe, the inaugural recipient of the Dorothea M. Lang International Pioneer Award, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to midwifery education and leadership worldwide.



Dr. Lisa Hanson
PhD, CNM, FACNM, FAAN
Lang Pioneer Award



Dr. Esla Aminlewis
DNP, CNM, MSN
Lang Pioneer Award



Nester T. Moyo
MSc, RM
Lang International Pioneer Award

HONORING CEO EMERITA LISA L. PAINE



A special highlight was a tribute to Lisa L. Paine, CNM, DrPH, FACNM, FAAN, recognizing her decades of extraordinary service to The Midwife Foundation (formerly the A.C.N.M. Foundation). Lisa's association with the Foundation dates to 1986, when she began supporting fundraising efforts, followed by her leadership of a landmark study of nurse-midwifery care for vulnerable populations in the U.S., with seed funding from the Foundation. Since joining the Board of Trustees in 1994, she has served in numerous capacities, including consultant, Executive Director, and CEO, playing a pivotal role in sustaining the Foundation's legacy and advancing its mission. Lisa served as CEO through December 2025, when she transitioned from that role following many years of distinguished leadership. The Board presented Lisa with a special award of appreciation in recognition of her unwavering dedication and outstanding contributions.

STAY CONNECTED & SUPPORT OUR MISSION

Learn more about The Midwife Foundation, our programs, and ways to get involved.

midwife.foundation