



Local nonprofit expands access to counselors for women of color

ABINGTON PA -- The Breastfeeding Resource Center is honored to introduce three recipients of our Women of Color Community Counselor Scholarship.

In order to continue to foster diversity and equal access to lactation counseling, BRC Board President Lauren Sponseller donated the cost of attending the BRC's Fall 2020 Community Counselor program and training materials for three recipients.

There are disparities in the number of breastfeeding/chestfeeding advocates and leaders of color. Taking measures to close this gap will help nursing mothers gain access to a counselor who can relate to the unique barriers that women of color face.

"This scholarship opportunity supports our ongoing work to bring more women of color into leadership roles in our organization," said Executive Director Colette Acker, IBCLC.

"Research has told us two things: some women of color face greater obstacles establishing and maintaining breastfeeding AND support from someone that understands your life barriers and your culture is more helpful."

While the BRC currently offers a Women of Color IBCLC (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant) Internship Scholarship, staff and board members are looking to expand diversity among the Community Counselors. Counselors meet with nursing parents by phone or email to offer non-medical breastfeeding information and support.

BRC Community Counselor Scholarship recipients explain why they want to attend the training in their own words:

Latanya McNeil "The reason why I would like to be a community counselor is to help educated mothers who want to breastfeed."

Najiyyah Lyons "I would love to be a community counselor because I love giving and helping people that may need it."

Fritzie Stiles "While extremely difficult at times, my (breastfeeding) journey was nothing short of amazing. It's an experience I would have loved to have a minority mother encourage me through."



About the BRC Community Counselors:

Our Community Counselors are mothers who have nursed their own babies and have taken an extensive training class. This qualifies them to counsel mothers over the phone or by email. The Community Counselors offer non-medical breastfeeding information. Every client that walks through our doors has the opportunity to sign up for a community counselor. Our Community Counselors can help ensure that mothers have support from the time they walk through our doors until they're ready to wean!

Training classes are offered twice a year.

For more information:

<https://breastfeedingresourcecenter.org/brc-community-counselors/>

About the BRC:

The Breastfeeding Resource Center (BRC) is a nonprofit corporation committed to providing expert clinical and educational breastfeeding services. BRC is a 501(c)(3) corporation eligible for tax-deductible donations.

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